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Near East/South Asia Report

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EGYPT

NEW NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD SYSTEM ANALYZED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Oct 86 p 3

[Article by Buhayjab Najati: "A National Identification Number for Every Citizen Beginning in 1987; Differentiation Between Citizens Is Assured, No Matter How Similar the Names; An End to Counterfeit Passports and Identity Cards"]

[Text] The Central Apparatus for Mobilization and Statistics has begun testing the gathering of data necessary to introduce a system of individual identification numbers. The test was witnessed by General Michel Salim Sa'ad, assistant minister of interior and director of the Civilian Affairs Department; General Muhammad al-Mahdi, deputy director of the Civilian Affairs Department; Dr Mukhtar Haludah, director of the Apparatus for Mobilization and Statistics; Rida al-Sayyid, deputy director of the Apparatus, National Number Affairs; and General Ahmad Sulayman, consultant to the Apparatus.

What is a national number? How will it be utilized by the state? And towards what benefit?

Dr Mukhtar 'Awad Haludah, director of the Apparatus for Mobilization and Statistics, said in an interview with AL-AKHBAR that the national number system is based on identifying the individual via a unique number that differentiates him from the rest of society. It would be the basis on which to organize all dealings by individuals with all state agencies.

The system is aimed at facilitating dealings between the individual and various state agencies and at eliminating many difficulties and negative attitudes when dealing with data relating to ration cards, identity cards, social security cards, travel documents, etc. Moreover, the system, through its applications and controls, has the capability of providing data and statistics necessary for state planning of the labor force and human resources.

Responsibility for Implementation

Dr Mukhtar Haludah said that responsibility for implementing the national number system and for creating data bases on the individual Egyptians rests with the Ministry of the Interior because of its direct responsibility for data on the

individual from birth to death and for registering all events in between such as marriage, divorce, change of residence, change of occupation, and change of family relationships and extrapolating data on those eligible for the draft. Also responsible would be the Apparatus for Mobilization and Statistics inasmuch as it is responsible for collecting data on citizens for the purpose of national mobilization and statistics on human resources in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

He added that in countries that utilize national identity numbers, such as the United States, France, Switzerland, Austria, West Germany, Canada, Iceland, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Australia, and Czechoslovakia, the system is usually built around personal data collected in such a way as to guarantee that the same number will not be assigned to more than one individual. Other countries have implemented similar systems and still others are considering them.

It is noteworthy that some countries, such as Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Israel, utilize the system widely in all dealings by the individual.

A system of national numbers would provide many nationwide benefits including:

- Identifying and differentiating one individual from another, no matter how similar their names are. This would eliminate the possibility of issuing more than one card to the same person.
- Facilitating, organizing, and controlling citizen dealings with all agencies of the state. This would guarantee the elimination of duplicity in state services such as rations, taxes, social security, the draft, identity cards, and travel and housing documents.
- Providing a data base on human resources in society. Once completed and stabilized, such data would make it possible for the state to prepare comprehensive plans for its various services and make detailed studies of such characteristics as geographic distribution, specialization, age groups, educational level, experience, etc. This would provide accurate statistics on human resources that are necessary for planning purposes.
- Improving the system of issuing identity cards and travel documents, driver's licenses, ration cards, tax cards, social security cards, etc. in a manner that would eliminate duplicity, forgery, or misinformation.

Invitation to All

Since the Higher Committee for Policy and Economic Affairs approved the implementation of the proposed national number system, invitations were extended to representatives of the concerned sectors, as well as to certain specialists, experts, and college deans and professors to participate in the activities of the committee, study the matter, and present previous studies or new proposals.

Representatives participated from the Central Apparatus for Mobilization and Statistics and the Ministries of Interior, Health, Supply, Finance, Education, Social Security, and Local Government as well as the Public Records Office and directors of university scientific centers.

All participants presented studies that pointed out the importance of the national number system in controlling the individual's relationship with each of them and the accruing national and social benefits. Each also defined the role it could play in the various stages of implementation and the accruing benefits.

Several Advantages

The national number agreed upon has certain other advantages. It is easy to remember because it is composed of data peculiar to the individual. It will make accurate statistics possible over a short period of time and will enable the agencies to plan for the future in a precise manner, for example, the Draft Administration of the Ministry of Defense, the Civil Affairs Administration (which issues cards) of the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Health (for new borns). All this can be extrapolated from the national number without delving into the detailed records of the individual.

International Tenders

Dr Haludah added that detailed plans are continually being made in order that the Apparatus may utilize its capabilities to test the system fully and prepare cadres capable of discussing its resources when the system is ready for implementation. Several tenders have been let to transnational firms. Negotiations are underway with an American company to put the national number system into effect and endow it with the necessary information while keeping local conditions in mind.

A comprehensive test has been conducted to sort the Civil Affairs Administration's data in a fashion that would serve its applications. Tests of the data base for the national number system have been completed with the participation of the Ministries of Education, Health, and Interior. We would like to point out that the National Number Committee is a standing committee that will continue to be active even after the contract is awarded to the American firm, in order to oversee the actual implementation and resolve problems in the field that will surface until the project is completed. The firm will begin work at the beginning of 1987 after the contract is signed.

Empirical studies have proven the adaptability of the national number system, whose implementation was a total success.

Two Complementary Projects

Initial studies on modernizing civil affairs and issuing a national number for the Egyptian individual have indicated that both projects are closely related and must be complementary. It was decided to take advantage of the process of issuing cards to more than 25 million citizens by issuing their national numbers at the same time.

Eliminating Card Duplication

Gen Michel Salim Sa'd, assistant minister of interior and director of civil affairs, said that using the national number system to modernize the data base of the Civil Affairs Administration will help eliminate identity card duplication or forgery.

Ration Card Also

Gen Michel added that using the national number in issuing identity cards, on whose basis ration cards are issued, would accomplish a major objective by limiting subsidies to those entitled to them. This will prevent citizens from obtaining two cards and getting double rations.

Evading Draft

Instituting a national number system will bring an end, once and for all, to attempts at draft evasion. Some families name their new borns after deceased family members and the name similarity helps them evade conscription under the present system.

A national number system will also help fiscal and tax authorities control fiscal activity and tax evasion. It will also prevent citizens from unlawfully receiving double services or pensions from the government or other sources. This would be in the service of social justice, Gen Michel added.

National Number Tested

Rida al-Sayyid Ibrahim, deputy director of the Central Apparatus for Mobilization and Statistics, said that those who worked on any phase of this huge project, and all of them were Egyptian, thank heavens, have gained great experience in this constantly and rapidly developing branch of modern science.

The time spent by each of them on various study committees is an indication of the tremendous effort required by this vital project, which will contribute greatly to the gathering of accurate and detailed data on resources available to the state's planning and executive agencies. The most important of these are human resources, which are the main bastion of economic and social development plans. The time consumed on the details of such huge projects is time well spent that would actually hasten implementation rather than delay it.

12945/9738
CSO: 4504/42

EGYPT

LARGE NUMBERS OF WORKERS RETURNING FROM ABROAD

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Oct p 3

[Article by Sayyid al-Jubarti and Hana' Jawhar: "Numerous Employment and Investment Opportunities in New Lands With No One Benefiting; Farmers on Sidewalks; Boys Shoeshining in the Cities while Agricultural Land Deserted"]

[Text] Figures available to official and academic sources about Egypt's labor force that has returned, and is still expected to return from Arab oil countries and Europe are:

400,000 from Saudi Arabia	167,000 from Iraq
136,000 from Kuwait	830,000 from the United Arab Emirates
35,000 from Greece	

There are close to a million migrants coming back to Egypt.

What have we got ready for them? Are there any special plans to meet them, and if so where are they headed?

They have come back to their homeland as a work force and as investors.

Are they going to join the "harbor queues" soliciting for whatever may be coming in from overseas?

Or are we going to move ahead together along the path of national development?

There is no alternative to that difficult route.

The figures quoted in reports of the National Population Council and other specialized national commissions are frightening.

--By 1992 the population will increase by a minimum of 7 million.

--The old existing communities cannot absorb more than 3 million newcomers.

--There are more than five unemployed for each returning Egyptian.

--Every new born child in Egypt has a debt burden of \$300 to be settled.

This overwhelming misery cannot be overcome unless all human and material resources are mobilized to the maximum.

All President Husni Mubarak's 1986 tours of Egyptian villages carried the same message and stressed, in particular, that there can be no real advancement without developing Egypt's villages.

We have some 30,000 local communities comprising 863 large, 4,220 medium sized villages, and 25,000 hamlets and estates.

It is imperative that this broad foundation of land and people regain its strength.

The government can help to achieve this in more than one way.

The activities being pursued by the Rural Communities Development Association, reporting to the Ministry of Social Affairs and comprising 2,730 branches, are evident all over Egypt's countryside.

Let the figures relating to this association speak for themselves.

Revenue earned by the associations in 1986 amounted to about LE 14.5 million with expenditures totaling LE 12 million expended on providing local services and projects benefiting 3 million inhabitants.

Some 91 thousand households benefited from cottage industry projects.

The Ministry of Social Affairs plans to increase the number to about one million households within the next 5 years.

The ministry is trying to reorientate the economic, social, hygienic, and cultural way of life of some 55,000 village girls by means of its related projects in the countryside.

It is only natural to ask whether there has been any serious monitoring of these various projects to protect them from the returning swarm of human migrants. Have they been identified for those wishing to join? If so, do red tape formalities hinder access to, and participation in, the various schemes?

Are they properly publicized in the media? We have seen, and marvelled at, the country fairs shown on television during President Mubarak's visits, but is that excellent production available to the public through the cottage industry fairs, and are prices competitive?

Or Is Production Only for Display Purposes?

The Ministry of Agriculture is closely related to the Egyptian countryside and is involved in the Ministry of Social Affairs' production.

It is true to say that more than 9 percent of arable land is private property, and hence, the ministry cannot really be equated with an employer, providing jobs and thus having an impact on the labor market, but it does run a wide-spread extension service influencing production.

The agricultural extension service seeks to increase productivity and modify consumption patterns, providing opportunities for training and overcoming production constraints.

It also operates an agricultural credit network through the village bank which helps draw job seekers towards agricultural employment.

Undersecretary Dr Yahya Muhyi-al-Din believes that agricultural employment is not attractive because of the low-level of income. There are other types of employment, both old, and more sophisticated which earn far more such as transport, trade, commission work, building, and renting farm machinery.

He rightfully points out the aversion of the new generations of farming communities to farming as a way of life, and the migration from the land to commercial and intermediary employment.

The same trend can be heard very clearly in testimony by farmers lining the sidewalks of the towns:

--A farmer from Isna: Farm work?... What can I do with LE 4? If I work as an architect I can earn LE 10 a day.

--An Abu Tisht farm worker: What employment are you talking about? Its only seasonal work.

--Another from Dahshur: Even rent of the land--who can afford it? It comes to about LE 400 a year. After expenses, what's left for the home?

The bond linking the farmer to his land used to be a sacred thing, rooted deeply in the patrimony of the Egyptian's past.

The farmer would rise at dawn, helping the sunrise to spread its golden rays upon the fields, basking in its light, finding any separation from the soil unbearable.

At night he would steal to the shelter of his favorite mulberry or sycamore tree urging the moon at night to protect his land with its light for that land is the light of his eyes... his whole life.

That Is no Longer the Case.

In the old days farming communities used to denigrate any one of them who sold his land, but that is no longer the case. A person able to dispose of his land becomes a model of success, an example to others. Such disposal may take on many a hateful shape: erosion, land left fallow, crops fired, sacrificed to concrete columns. The waters of the Nile are poisoned for its fish, at the expense of life itself.

If caught, the culprit's name appears on the "events" page of the press, and should that culprit become wealthy he is looked upon as an affluent socialite.

Land is no longer a commodity in short supply, it is a commodity to be traded, the dealer becoming a millionaire overnight, or in a month or year at most.

The "events" columns are full of cases of offenses involving land. Those brought to the attention of the police come to no more than about 1 percent of those committed despite legislation that treats land brokerage as a heinous crime.

It is enough to know that about 1 million feddans of the best arable land in Wadi al-Akhdar have been degraded over the last 10 years and still the crime is being perpetrated.

The land is over-congested with people. People have lost faith in land, because of the high prices. We therefore turned out attention to the desert in the hope that we can revive our old love in new lands.

To avoid starvation, asphyxiation, and pollution of the towns, there is a need to establish 20 new communities by 1992.

Sinai, al-Sahil al-Shimaliyah, Nubariyah, Salihiyah, al-Wadi al-Jadid, al-'Amiriyah al-Jadidah, and al-Tahrir Province have all been opened up to welcome Egypt's returning migrants either as a work force or as investors beginning a new, pure life.

There are many job opportunities open to our compatriots in the new townships, particularly for skilled workers. As Minister of Reconstruction Hasballah al-Kafrawi adds:

"The repatriation of manpower will speed up development programs. We need these workers and their services in the various fields of activity, particularly in construction".

The minister also went on to say that insofar as concerns small-scale industries, whole areas have been set aside for certain types of production that do not require major capital. A workshop operator only has to turn a small switch to start up his works.

The ministry of reconstruction has gone further than that, concerning itself with small scale investors in agriculture on the acreage available in which limited capital is needed for each modest farm.

Hundreds of investors, small scale farmers, demobilized armed forces veterans, and former civil servants have turned to the new lands as farmers and manufacturers.

There are immense agricultural and industrial production opportunities available in the new lands.

Why then is that thousands are not making their way to al-Wadi al-Jadid, Sinai, and al-Amiriyah al-Jadidah as they have done to Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria?

--Statistics compiled by the Central Mobilization and Statistics Board indicate that more than a million farmers have migrated from the countryside to these main towns from 1960 to 1970.

--On the other hand al-Wadi al-Jadid, with its fabulous agricultural potential, has been able to retain the inhabitants of the oases and entice them to remain and hold fast to their lands, but they have preferred to seek the magic "Ring of Solomon" in the garbage collected in cities and from houses, their sole competitors being migrants from al-Fayyum Governorate.

They have set up trash collectors' kingdoms in each of the capital cities. Ghastly as it is, this profession is more attractive to them than any green farmland, small house, and a productive life in al-Wadi al-Jadid, that verdant dream created for our people promising wheat fields and grape vines.

Take heed of these facts. Take heed also of what is happening on city sidewalks and streets.

There are hundreds of petty professions being practiced by strapping men avoiding more arduous, but less remunerative toil undertaken in the heart of the desert, yes, but holding out promise of a tremendous future.

Itinerant vendors and hawkers numbering about a million, half of whom are licensed, the rest are not. They sell everything you can think of, from a kaleidoscope of untamed chaos, with all manner of legitimate and illegitimate activity.

Every hole in the wall has been turned into a shop. Instead of the marketplace becoming a part of town planning, the town has become a bedraggled annex to the market, defaced by cheap signboards, architectural deformities, and beset by an eternal din.

The metropolis for 5 million has become a teeming megalopolis throttling 12 million inhabitants.

The various national commissions keep asking themselves in their annual reports if they can possibly plan for, and mobilize our manpower force for development when such chaotic conditions prevail in the labor market?

The answer is of course in the negative.

Faced with chaotic migration, chaotic labor conditions, chaotic urbanization, the national commissions demanded at their last meeting that Cairo be considered the political capital and that no further licenses be granted for any industrial activity, and that it be deemed a closed city and no further migration be permitted.

There is much the government can do other than give in to the forces of supply and demand and to the notion of "let him pass, let him work".

It can for example:

--Establish a firm national policy for our human resources, and not leave them at the mercy of a volatile market place, but rather guide them to agricultural and industrial production.

--Reform wage policies to ensure a higher income for producers rather than managers and allow unlimited promotion.

--A close surveillance over taxation and tax liabilities for all merchants including itinerant vendors.

In one day we put an end to the spirit of production in the villages with the sword of consumerist open-door policy as we celebrated the end of that spirit in Cairo. The good earth was unrepentantly sacrificed on gallows erected from concrete columns, and now we mourn its passing in the condolence marquee of sheer hypocrisy. We sang anthems to the pure dignity and honor of our soil, and collected the price of its ravished fertility. We danced ecstatically round the brick kiln of our clay and chanted praises to our Nile and slaughtered palms. Ought we not now invite the returning migrants to drink a toast to our victory over everything that is green?

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CSO: 4504/44

EGYPT

BRIEFS

SHORTER MILITARY SERVICE REQUIRED--A bill is now being drafted to reduce compulsory military service from 2 to 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years for holders of secondary school and higher degrees. The ministerial legislative committee will discuss in an upcoming meeting an amendment to the military draft prepared by Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and military production. The draft bill takes into account the extra years of study spent by degreeholders after matriculating and aims at encouraging high school graduates to enroll in technical and trade school. When passed by the People's Council, the bill would also apply to those draftees serving in the armed forces at the time. The bill would also reduce the period of military service for holders of foreign degrees. The proposed military service is 1 year for holders of graduate degrees, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years for holders of certificates higher than the intermediate level, 2 years for holders of intermediate certificates, and 1 years for non-graduates who have memorized the Quran in its entirety. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Oct 86 p 1]

COMMITTEE TO STOP PRISON TORTURE--The board of the Physicians' Syndicate resolved in its last meeting to form a committee headed by Dr Mamduh Jabir, dean of physicians, to request a meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and other high officials including Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi and Speaker of the People's Council Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub. The committee will bring to their attention incidents of savage torture inflicted upon Muslim youths in prisons and detention camps and appeal to them to put a stop to it. The committee is composed of Drs 'Abd-al-Fattah Shawqi, Salim Nijm, 'Abd-al-Min'im Abu al-Futuh, 'Abd-al-Qadir Hijazi, and 'Isam al-'Uryan, all members of the Physicians' Syndicate. The news was released in a statement by Dr 'Abd-al-Min'im Abu Futuh, deputy secretary general of the syndicate, after the general prosecutor arraigned 44 officers and assistants at the Ministry of the Interior on charges of torturing defendants in the al-Jihad case. In its statement, the syndicate urged competent authorities to put a halt to such inhumane activity. [Text] [Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 22 Oct 86 p 1]

12945/9738
CSO: 4502/42

LIBYA

BRIEFS

DAMASCUS-TRIPOLI RIFT REPORTED--Diplomatic circles in the Arab League confirm that Syrian-Libyan relations have reached the highest level of tension which is a sign of the final split between Damascus and Tripoli. These circles say that Libya's call to the Arab League for an emergency session to discuss deteriorating relations between Britain and Syria is an attempt by Col. al-Qadhdhafi to embarrass the Syrian president who is making secret contacts with Bonn, Washington, and Paris so that Syria would not be dealt with as Libya had been. These circles do not conceal the hidden criticism which al-Qadhdhafi is directing towards al-Asad charging the latter with being embroiled in numerous operations in the European arena while al-Asad himself is washing his hands of these operations and of the killing of the two British hostages in the Lebanese town of Sawfar, following the U.S. raid on Libya. [Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Nov 86 p 3]

/9716
CSO: 4504/53

IRAQ

BRIEFS

ATTACK ON TRUCKS DENIED--Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)--An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that some trucks were attacked on the road leading to the Turkish city of (Konchik). In a statement to INA this morning, the spokesman said that these claims are absurd and deserve no comment. He pointed out that some elements who are agent to Iran are trying to obtain more bribes from the Iranian Government by fabricating reports and creating imaginary incidents, thus exploiting the Iranian rulers' well-known ignorance. The spokesman added that the correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies had reached the farthest point on the Iraqi-Turkish borders the day before yesterday and ascertained that both sides' customs procedures are operating normally, and that nothing disturbs security in this or any other area. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Nov 86 JN] /12624

CSO: 4400/54

ISRAEL

IVORY COAST TO MOVE EMBASSY FROM JERUSALEM

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 86 p 2

[Article by Gad Li'or: "Submission to Arab League Fearing Ban on Ivory Coast"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday expressed deep regret about the decision of the Ivory Coast government to move its embassy from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv.

The decision of the National Council of the Democratic Party, which is the ruling party in the Ivory Coast, was broadcast yesterday on national radio.

The party announcement stated that the decision to move the embassy "was taken in accordance with the decisions of the UN Security Council."

Last week the Ivory Coast government announced that it was reexamining the decision to maintain its embassy in Jerusalem, after the Arab League threatened to obligate each Arab country to break its diplomatic relations with the Ivory Coast.

A government source in Abidjan yesterday said that "the question of whether to move the embassy to Tel Aviv was clearly decided after President Houphouet-Boigny last week promised King Hasan of Morocco to reexamine his stand on this matter."

The Ivory Coast embassy was reopened in Jerusalem last month, after the renewal of diplomatic relations between that country and Israel. The relations between the two countries had been broken in 1974, after the Yom Kippur war.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday said in reaction: "We regret this decision and we hope that one day the Ivory Coast embassy will be returned to our capital." The Foreign Ministry statement also stated: "We have taken note of the decision of the Ivory Coast government to establish its embassy away from Jerusalem, Israel's capital city."

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ISRAEL

CONFLICTS WITHIN SHINUY PARTY DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ (Supplement) in Hebrew 31 Oct 86 pp 12-13

[Article by Ayal Erlich: "Once Upon A Time There Were Two Friends"]

[Text] Some people say that the dispute within Shinuy is about the party's line, while others believe that it is about seat preservation. Mordekhay Wirshovsky claims that the party serves the needs of the Alignment instead of its own needs. Amnon Rubinstein evokes the ancient claim of "the law of the party." The hour of decision may well come within a few weeks time.

"For 34 years Amnon Rubinstein and myself were very good friends," says his party colleague and, until recently, close friend Mordekhay Wirshovsky. "We met as students in 1931, belonged to the same group, and did whatever friends do together. We went out together, played poker, and in the early years even wrote comedy skits together for various occasions. Amnon brought his girlfriend into our circle of friends in 1956, and my wife and I were the first to learn about their plans to marry. They knocked on our door at midnight to tell us about it. So when I say that we were friends I do not use the term loosely.

"Our relations began to deteriorate after the 1984 elections. After the paltry results became known the question was raised whether Shinuy should join the unity government or not. Myself and a large group of colleagues were of the opinion that we must not enter that government. When Amnon showed signs of wanting to sit in on the unity cabinet things began to go bad. The discussions became very heated, the struggle was fierce, and our relations deteriorated. The majority in the party committee was in favor of joining (67 for, 31 against), and when the cabinet was formed our relationship worsened and was almost severed.

"I want to emphasize that the dispute between us was about the party line; we did not fight about a girl or property, nor about our personal position. We disagreed on the policy of the party, and that led to such mutual repulsion and hatred that it killed our friendship. Party colleagues said to us, 'What has happened to you, you are after all friends,' but the dispute was so heated that in the end no one else wanted to become involved. Only much later, about 1 year ago, did colleagues--Judith Na'ot and Aquiva Meir--tell us: 'If you do not come to some agreement between yourselves you will destroy the party; your quarrel is preventing the party from functioning. It does not concern just you

personally, but us, too. You must come to an understanding.' And indeed, about 1 year ago we did come to an arrangement. We met in the lobby of the Jerusalem Hilton and after 1 hour we decided that there will be no mutual accusations and that we will try to cooperate so as to advance the interests of the party. Since then we have more or less kept that agreement."

The fight between Amnon Rubinstein and Mordekhay Wirshovsky, which began with a disagreement on whether the party should join the unity government, has recently exacerbated around the implementation of the rotation agreement. Those who were against joining the unity government, led by Wirshovsky, tried to keep Shinuy out of the Shamir government, but they once again found themselves in a minority in the party committee (this time 20 to 66). The break between the two has implications that far exceed the end of their personal friendship. Now, about 1 year after trying to arrive at some modus vivendi, it seems that Shinuy has come to a split in the path: either the party committee adopts a decision, very soon, to leave the coalition and the government, or the party splits and Wirshovsky's faction becomes an independent faction. One way or another, very soon--some say within the coming few weeks--Shinuy will be forced to take some very significant decisions on its image and future.

More than 12 years ago, on 26 March 1974, the Shinuy party held its founding conference. The following lines appeared in the "Genesis" chapter of a publication that the party later issued: "Shinuy was not established upon the decision of one man or one meeting. Its origins are in the Yom Kippur war and the subsequent period, when the various founders (of the party) came to the conclusion, each in his own way and time, that they had to become active in the political arena... As far as two of the founders are concerned, the impulse came on the second day of the war. Professor Jonathan Shapira and Attorney Mordekhay Wirshovsky were not called up to the army for health reasons and thus had the time to discuss and analyze the events. When it became clear that the non-performance is indeed serious, the two began marathon talks to determine lines of action. Immediately after the heat of the battle died down they invited several close friends for more practical discussions. By the beginning of December it was decided to hold a meeting immediately after the December 31 1973 elections with a view to founding a new political party... From an ideological viewpoint, Shinuy offered the Israeli public a "package deal" of a new type: a moderate and realistic foreign policy combined with a reform and liberal approach to internal and economic matters..."

Amnon Rubinstein, Wirshovsky's good friend, sat in on some of the discussions between Wirshovsky and Shapira and joined the group of 12 founders of the party immediately after being released from reserve duty. Rubinstein opened the founding congress in March 1974 with an emotional address, at the end of which he said: "I do not know whether we will succeed, but we owe it to ourselves, our sons, and our nation. If we succeed this day will go down as a landmark in the history of our people. My words may sound pretentious, but I am convinced that this will come to pass."

In hindsight, it is very doubtful that the date of the establishment of the Shinuy Party can be viewed as a landmark in the history of the Israeli nation.

In its first 2 years the party functioned as an extra-parliamentary group with a rather large following among the public. In 1976, when Yig'al Yadin entered the political arena, the party merged with Yadin and his people and that is how DASH was formed. At the 1977 Knesset election DASH won an unprecedented success and seated 15 members in the Knesset. Of them were Shinuy men: Rubinstein (second place on the list), Stein (sixth place), and Wirshovsky (14th place). Some 2 months after DA's entry into Begin's cabinet the party split and the three Shinuy members, together with four other representatives, left the coalition and founded the "Shinuy VeYazma" faction. At the 1981 elections Shinuy managed to win only two seats in the Knesset, for Rubinstein and Wirshovsky, while at the latest elections in 1984 it increased its representation and added Zeydan 'Atashi to the previous two.

In open discussions on the matter the two opposed sides are careful to cloak the dispute that flared up between them after the establishment of the national unity government in 1984 in ideological clothing. They call it a "policy dispute." Off the record Wirshovsky's camp accuses Rubinstein of being overly fond of his seat. Rubinstein energetically defends the decision of the party committee 2 years ago to join the unity government: "In politics you can act within a very limited framework. Shinuy won only 2.6 percent of the votes. That is too little, it is painful, and it is unjust, because we represent a broad outlook which is the majority outlook in the western countries. But that is the reality. The question is what to do about it. To 'stop talking' with the rest of the world? If so, then I should leave the Knesset, too, not just the cabinet. I can wield the small power we achieved for the benefit of Shinuy. I tell you: in these 2 years Shinuy has put a strong mark on the government's decisions, on laws, daily life, the economy, and every other area we dealt with. I believe that Shinuy is an ideological party whose every action reflects its ideology. At the Communication Ministry each step, beginning with staff cutbacks and down to stamp issues, is based on ideology. For the first time in this country I issued a stamp in honor of the Muslims, on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. Now, at Christmas, we will issue a stamp in honor of the Christian community. It is all a matter of ideology.

"Shinuy reflects our desire to work changes in the Israeli society, something that cannot be achieved just by preaching, without any action. Personally, I was comfortable at HA'ARETZ and in my corner of the television, and if all I wanted was to preach I could have stayed with the media instead of entering politics. I left journalism and went to the Knesset in order to do something. In order to make my political and legal mark. I compare this to a ship, and in Israel the ship's helm is in several hands. I want to put my small (electorally speaking) but strong (from the viewpoint of principles) hand on the helm and turn it in the direction that seems right to me."

When asked to comment on the claim that fondness for his seat makes him abandon the ideology, Rubinstein replies: "Let them talk. I do not need any of the advantages that accompany government service. By definition parties seek to influence, and if they are not in the government it is because they cannot get there. The overwhelming majority in Shinuy voted to join the unity government and to remain in it after the rotation. So what does that mean? That they, too, are overly fond of their seats? This is a despicable claim."

However, things look different from Wirshovsky's angle. "Shim'on Peres wanted us in the unity government to serve as his fig leaf. So that the Alignment can say in its own defense: even Shinuy, which is an ideological party, is with us. We fulfill an important purpose for the Alignment, but do we fulfill our own aims? One must remember that Shinuy was in fact founded against the Alignment, and despite the fact that it sat in the opposition for 7 years, the Alignment has not changed. Actually we are denying our own purpose, which was to cleanse the government. Are we fulfilling any national purpose? How can we sacrifice the future of the party for the sake of the present? On the basis of what should the Israeli voter give us his vote in the future? What is it that sets us apart anymore? Why should they vote for us and not straight for the Alignment? The quarrel between myself and Amnon has to a great extent unveiled basic principles. He said: 'You cannot sit in the opposition all this time.' And I said: 'We must see what the price of sitting in the government is. Being 7 years in the opposition is not a terrible thing. Begin waited much longer, and in the end he did get to the government. If we do not preserve our special character, then people will vote Alignment or RATZ, but not Shinuy."

In 1984, when the Shinuy party committee decided to join the unity government, it limited its participation to Shim'on Peres' term in office. The prevailing view in the party was that at the end of Peres' term Shinuy would leave the government, and that is the vein in which Rubinstein, too, spoke until a few months ago. However, the closer the time of the rotation came, the more he changed his tune, until his new position was accepted to allow Shinuy to stay in the government.

"Indeed, for a long time I was of the opinion that we should leave the government immediately upon the implementation of the rotation," Rubinstein explains. "It was clear to me that that would be the wish of the Shinuy voters, namely that, for electoral purposes, we should not participate in a government led by Shamir. The truth is that after I appeared at several local centers colleagues approached me and said that in this way I was dictating the results a priori and preempting genuine discussions. The decision to remain in the government came more from the side of activists and polls than from my side. A poll that we commissioned Hanoch Smith to carry out showed that the overwhelming majority of people on the periphery, from the ranks of which most of Shinuy's supporters come, is in favor of remaining in the government. I changed my stand about leaving the Shamir government for three reasons:

--I realized how impossible it was to explain to our supporters leaving the government for the reason of a change of prime ministers.

--I was swayed by the fact that Shim'on Peres appealed to me and to the Shinuy committee members. He said that our departure would weaken the moderate camp in the government. In exchange for our staying in the government he pledged that the Alignment would oppose special legislation on religion and state matters apt to alter the status quo.

--There is another matter whose importance I do not underestimate, namely, the second channel, which is the generic name for breaking the monopoly of the broadcasting network and the opening up of the airwaves to competition. About half a year ago the subject was still deeply buried and I did not believe that

I would manage to pass it. When I saw that I was succeeding in achieving a consensus between the Alignment and Likud and in passing the bill in the Knesset, I said that that was the most popular materialization of Shinuy's general principle against monopoly and for competition; against centralization and for dispersion; against dependence upon one central authority; and for giving the citizen a free choice. Nevertheless, I want to stress that Shinuy's participation in the government is conditional, upon the continuation of Shim'on Peres' policy in all directions."

Wirshovsky and his supporters did not like the decision of the party central committee to remain in a government led by Yitzhaq Shamir. Wirshovsky himself abstained at the Knesset ballot that endorsed the formation of the new cabinet. "When it was decided to participate in the Peres government," he says, "there were several strong reasons for it. First of all, it was the Alignment with whom we were prepared to sit together. Secondly, it was urgently necessary to deal with vital matters such as Lebanon and the economy. And thirdly, it was explained to us that our participation would ensure that the Alignment would be the first to be awarded the premiership. Today all these reasons no longer exist. We cannot sit in a government led by Yitzhaq Shamir. As an ideological party we are the people to impart him full legitimacy.

"Besides, the Likud does not conceal its positions, so why play the innocents and say that we would leave only if they do something that opposes our principles? It is as if you were to find your wife in bed with a stranger, but they had not yet begun the sexual act--what else does one need? Whom do we fool when we say, 'It has not happened yet.' The question is whether from an ideological viewpoint we are prepared to sit together with Shamir and his people. I am not. Not then and not now. I believe that the decision was a mistake. What am I supposed to offer the voter in the future as my ideological line? Might as well vote straight for the Alignment or Likud. This is an electoral error, and even more of an ideological error. We should have adopted the decision to leave without considering whether the public would understand or not. This entire claim that the public would not understand is nonsense. The majority of the public was in favor of closing the SHABAK file, and did we take that into consideration? We represent a certain line and a certain principle."

The persistent erosion of Shinuy's opposition to sitting in a Likud government will perhaps stop along the red lines drawn by Amnon Rubinstein: "In my speech to the central committee I said that Shinuy must depart from the government for every matter on which it can immediately raise a no-confidence motion against the government. This is a test of terms. In this respect, what is there now to warrant a no-confidence motion? The government has not yet the time to do anything. No-confidence can be warranted by Likud's settlement program, blocking peace initiatives, economic populism, or religious legislation. The implementation of any of the above would be a reason for us to leave. At least I should recommend it."

Amnon Rubinstein is not prepared to answer questions concerning the break of the friendly relations between him and Wirshovsky. "The personal aspect is not a matter for public discussion," he says. Nevertheless, he claims that "there is no problem concerning the functioning of the faction or the party."

For Wirshovsky, however, there certainly is a problem. "There is a chance that we might break up," he says. "It can certainly happen. There are today tactical differences that are beginning to affect the substance. But I want to stress that I am a Shinuy man, one of the party's founders, and I want to make every possible effort to preserve Shinuy and remain in it. The fact that the relations between myself and Rubinstein were very good and of long-standing does not matter, because once the dispute was very much about principles--which I think it still is--one cannot stop to consider personal relationships. Politics is not just a profession. You become involved body and soul in these matters, from morning till night. This was a party we established together and along its road differences emerged between us. I could not accept his position and he could not accept mine. Our personal relationship broke against this background, and friendship is a part of personal relations. What can you do when after all you invested things do not proceed in the right direction?

Friendship is not some theoretical idea you read about in books. Even marriage can end in divorce, and friendship even more easily so. We have managed to avoid the divorce for the time being, for the sake of the children. Which does not mean that relations are what should be expected from a couple. The problem is still very serious. I still think that Shinuy should have sat in the opposition to the Peres unity government, and even more so to a Shamir government. Had we been in the opposition we would have been in a much better position to watch over the enforcement of the law than from the inside. I am putting to the test what was said in the Shinuy central committee, namely, that if Shamir does anything in opposition to our principles we do not remain in the government even 1 hour longer. This is what I want to put to the test. I do not believe that the government would not do any such thing. In my opinion, the moment of truth will come in a few days time."

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ISRAEL

KNESSET MEMBER SHULAMIT ALONI INTERVIEWED

Tel Aviv HADASHOT (PURPLE supplement) in Hebrew 26 Oct 86 pp 3, 5

[Article by Orna Nagar: "Running"]

[Text] A politician 100 percent. Even when she is fed up with it all and curls up in bed with a good book, an infuriating news item on the radio can make her jump up. Shulamit Aloni, Knesset member, married 35 years, mother of three sons, is confident of her way and optimistic most of the time. But there are other moments, too. For the first time she talks about yearning for freedom, about the brother who was killed. If I had a good voice, she reveals with a smile, I would have liked to be a singer.

I cite to her a line from an interview she had given at age 40: "When I am 60 years old," it says, "I will no longer deal with politics. I will sit in my backyard and weave rugs."

Now she is 58 and cannot believe that she could ever have said such a thing. Then she tries to justify it: "What did I think when I was 40? I thought that being 60 is being well-advanced in years. Do not talk to me about age. I feel quite young. Sometimes I meet people younger than myself who seem to me very old. And then, all of a sudden, some bald old man with a paunch calls me 'Teacher.' Turns out that I was his teacher 30 years ago. But I cannot relate to this old man with his bald spot and paunch."

Years ago I went to one of her electoral meetings in Be'er Sheva'. The meeting was held in a crowded shelter in the students' dormitory, in awful conditions, without a stage, microphone, or air. Aloni was standing there, sweating, heatedly belting out her philosophy with a parched throat. There followed a volley of questions and answers and many knock-outs. When someone dared to make her angry, he got a few hits below the belt in the return. It was important to her that even the student who was last to come in, and that one who was scratching his ear, should leave the shelter persuaded. Someone with such conviction burning in her blood will not all of a sudden retire to weave rugs. The entire event resembled a theater: the astounded audience, the ecstatic lecturer. At the end someone even went up and told her: "You were marvelous."

[Question] Had you not entered politics, would we have found you in the theater?

[Answer] Oh, no. I could never have been an actress. For example, I do not allow my husband to come to my lectures. He already knows my views and has heard everything that I have to say. It would drive me crazy, trying to think of something he has not heard yet. Recently I was on a lecture tour with Assa Kasher in the United States. It killed me. All the time I was afraid I would bore him and was trying to think up something new.

[Question] Just for Assa Kasher? To the others everything was new anyway. That means that you feel the need to captivate from the stage.

[Answer] An actor can deliver, with great enthusiasm, the same lines again and again. I want to capture the audience because I have a message for it which I want it to get. Unfortunately, I sometimes come to a 1-hour lecture and try to cram into it a whole seminar, because I know that there is no chance that I will meet this audience again.

We try to identify her first moments in politics; what has caused her, of all people, to be propelled from the emotional group of young people, full of ideals, of the Ben-Shemen Youth Village to the political arena?

Her childhood was what is known as a deprived childhood. Aloni does not dwell on those difficulties. The parents, who were not always together, were poor. "But we always had a newspaper at home, even when we had no margarine." When the brigade became more important than the home, the parents went to fight, while the children, Shulamit and her brother, were sent to the Ben-Shemen Youth Village. A misfortune happened to them there. The brother, younger than she by 1 year, drowned in the swimming pool. This is another subject on which she does not dwell, but reports the fact laconically. At the end of the story she says, "That is it." This pain is now between us, hanging in the air. She was not the only one to bear a misfortune. The youth village was full of orphans or abandoned children. "There was great awareness. We read Karl Marx. We had maps and flags to mark the advance of the German armies. We breathed politics.

[Question] Nevertheless, not all the girls from Ben-Shemen grew up to become political leaders.

[Answer] I think this is something I was born with. Even in those days I was different, in that I was like the child in the story who was not afraid to say that the emperor was naked. I was not afraid to speak up. And ever since I can remember myself I hated secrecy and intrigues. When there were secrets and intrigues I would stand up and say aloud what I thought. To this day I believe that the best defense, when you are caught in an intrigue, is to bring things out in the open.

In sixth grade she wrote an assignment about Jeremiah, which caused excitement and reverberated throughout the school. "It was probably the best thing I ever wrote to this day," she says. "In that assignment I pointed out the source of Jeremiah's strength. The key paragraph was: 'Do not be dismayed by them, lest

I dismay you before them.' And this is also my key line: Do not compromise, say it out loud."

[Question] And were you not afraid? Are you never afraid?

[Answer] Look here, I have received threats to my life. I am not saying that that is not scary.

[Question] I was not referring to life threats, but to something much more minor, such as unmasking intrigues.

[Answer] That has its own dynamics. One does get butterflies in one's stomach, but in the end I do speak out. I cannot keep silent. Arbitrariness infuriates me. That is what I resent the most.

[Question] Which means that you are often not very nice.

[Answer] I am often not nice. I have no patience with sweet talk. But I can also be very nice indeed.

Golda, too, who used to divide people into nice and not nice, thought that she was not nice. She went to the trouble of getting Shulamit out of the Knesset, and that occurrence, which at the time caused her great pain, has not been forgotten to this day. Three times during our talk Aloni brought up Golda's name. Peres was not mentioned even once.

[Question] Was not the story of your relations with Golda exaggerated above and beyond the truth?

[Answer] It was not exaggerated by others, it was in itself an exaggerated affair.

[Question] Female hatred?

[Answer] Do I know? I did not hate her. She was older than my own mother, what was there to hate. My husband says Golda could not stand the fact that I have nice legs. If you know what kind of legs Golda had you may agree that that was the heart of the problem.

[Question] Have you ever had an opportunity to be alone with her in a room? Was there ever a moment of truth?

[Answer] We were alone on several occasions, but there was no moment of truth. We disagreed on almost everything.

Golda did not stop her, merely threw a wrench in her works. Aloni had three children, taught in the mornings, studied law in the evening, and ran for the Knesset. She had grandchildren, survived a heart attack, went through an ulcer, and continues to run. She has an unbridled energy and a crazy daily schedule.

I am the head of a political party and that is a tough job. Arik Sharon tried to establish a party and ended up joining the Likud. Ezer Weizmann tried too, and hopped on the Alignment bandwagon. I went alone to four elections. I am trying to maintain a party and, believe me, it is no party. Lectures, Knesset problems, policy decisions. Not to mention tending to small matters, such as what is happening at the office, where is there an event, who is fighting with whom, who is friends with whom, and how to stroke an individual's ego. It is tough. Especially in a party of volunteers and intellectuals, where each one is a prima donna.

[Question] But how does one do it? How does one find the time for so much?

[Answer] First of all, it is a matter of character and of being able to explain to others one's own needs. When the children were small I had great help from my mother and, of course, from my husband. And then, I have another important trait, namely the talent to shut out all the problems when I come home or go on vacation. I just pull the switch. My husband cannot get over this knack of mine. My head gets cleared.

[Question] You present the image of a person with an enviable inner stability. What about the rough times? Any insomnia?

[Answer] I never suffer from insomnia. I sleep wonderfully in any situation. But let us not get carried away. I do have problems. There are rough days. I am against psychologists, but I have studied psychology, too. I am not saying that it is a superfluous profession, but it has been put to exaggerated use. Because of this tendency to run to a psychologist with every problem, people no longer try to deal with it themselves and take the responsibility. For me, sleep is a refuge, too, when I am in a bad mood or in pain. When I was in labor all I wanted to do was sleep. That helps me. It is a sort of escape, a good kind of escape.

[Question] A very good trick. Then you get up in the morning, start a new day, and everything is as it should be?

[Answer] I would not put it quite that simply. I told you that I do have bad days. But since I live with the awareness that I am responsible for my decisions, I have no choice. I do not have a Rabbi, or someone to whom I can go for the answers. We have a beautiful country, no earthquakes, no floods, so we must not grumble all the time.

[Question] We have wars.

[Answer] The wars are of our own making.

[Question] What about erosion, accumulated tiredness?

[Answer] I am dying to take a sabbatical. I am dying to take a vacation and go to some university. Or, perhaps not a university--I keep hearing all kinds of people my age talk of going back to school. I do not want to study, I am just as smart as the professors. I want to talk and to listen, to be selective. I do not need any titles, I want time. But today, in my work, there is no

question of free time. Sometimes I take a break. At home, for example, the children come to me. I am always the address to come to. And that is fun. But sometimes I say, enough, I have had it, I cannot do it anymore, leave me alone.

[Question] Does the burden not lift off when the children are grown?

[Answer] It does not. The grown children come to me because I am their mother. Just as I used to go to my mother. With me they do not want to be grown up. I understand them, but sometimes I say to them: my dears, I need a rest.

[Question] Do you ever dream of being entirely by yourself? Without the husband, too, sometimes, after 35 years of marriage?

[Answer] I do not need to dream, I do it. I think that everyone needs to be by themselves at times. You see the birds sitting on the power line? Each one of them keeps some distance. Each person needs a breathing space and a corner of his own. I sometimes go to Eilat, or stay in Jerusalem overnight and lock myself in the hotel room, or ask the others to go out. I do have a need to be by myself, and this need is accepted with understanding and sympathy.

[Question] This breathing space between yourself and your husband, does it extend to other things, too? Are there experiences which you do not share with him?

[Answer] Well, those are not things one speaks about. In life there are ups and downs. Things happen. We have lived together for 35 years, and that is a long time. A young girl in the United States wrote her bat-mitzvah paper about me. Among other things, she wrote: "She has three sons and is still married to her first husband." If you want to live together and not suffer too much erosion you must take breaks, which we have.

[Question] Nowadays, 35 years of marriage is indeed remarkable.

[Answer] I do not marvel at the high rate of divorce. People are more aware of their rights, make fewer commitments, and generally think that it is permissible to escape the sanctity of the family. If that is what I had wanted, I could easily have packed a bag and left.

[Question] Your husband is known as an Alignment man with rightist leanings. Is it not difficult to live with a man who holds different political views? (Shulamit Aloni's husband was manager of the Shlomo District and was, among other things, in charge of the Taba area).

[Answer] When it comes to the things that are most important to me, such as the struggle for civil rights, he agrees with me all the way. Concerning the territories, our views on the matter have been changing over the years. We had differences, and we had fights and shouting matches. But it is better to fight about such things rather than others.

[Question] What is your objective in politics? What would satisfy you?

[Answer] What I most want is to get through the bill on civil rights and to have a constitution established in Israel. In point of fact, I have been struggling for this objective ever since the establishment of the state. However, talking of constitution and civil rights does not mean that I would not like to be a minister. I believe that as minister of justice I can pull it off. I could also do much as minister of education. I do not know what the conjecture will be, I may even get the interior portfolio. The State of Israel has never yet had a proper interior minister. For the time being we have a minister that preserves us as an ethnic-religious community. I do not content myself with little in the political arena. I suppose that if I had stayed with the Labor Party, by now I would have been a candidate for the premiership.

[box on page 3]

There is no end to the things I would like to do. However, once you chose one thing you cannot do the other, so what is the point in dwelling on it?

Lots of things, beginning with academic pursuits, through artistic weaving and handicrafts, and even the fulfillment of a dream: I do not have a good voice, but I would have loved to be a singer. And now I am sorry I did not go for dancing. I used to love to dance, now I am too embarrassed to do it. I belonged to a folk dance group. I have a childhood friend who kept dancing all these years. I envy her.

I would also like to write books. I have lots of material for writing, and I must hold a few discussions and document them. Discussions with certain people on very basic and existential matters. For example, with Isaiah Berlin, as a Jewish philosopher, Professor Efraim Urbach, and Professor Adi Tzemah--the philosopher of the future world, which I do not understand. I want to have a dialogue with them for the purpose of my writings.

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JORDAN

BRIEFS

REGIONAL LAND COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT--Amman--Eng Muhammad Shahid Isma'il, director general of the Telecommunications Corporation, has stated that the Corporation is currently assessing international tenders for the implementation of a project linking Syria, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia through a regional land communications network. In a statement to [AL-RA'Y] Eng Isma'il said that a new project has been initiated for linking the Jordanian national network to the Egyptian network through the Aqaba Gulf and Sinai and to the international marine cable, which extends from Singapore to the European mainland in France passing through 20 countries. [Excerpt] [Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Nov 86 p 1 JN] /8918

AGREEMENT ON DAM LOCATION--An agreement was signed today between the Jordan Valley Authority and two firms, one British and the other local. Under the agreement, the firms will conduct studies on the most suitable location of a dam to be constructed on Al-Mallahah Valley, northwest of Ak-Karamah town. The project aims at constructing an accumulation dam, 1.4 kilometers long and 42 meters high, capable of holding 55 million cubic meters of storm water for irrigation purposes in the Jordan Valley. A lake of 6 square kilometers will be built behind the dam, as well as a facility in the vicinity to pump water from the dam lake to eastern al-Ghawr canal to irrigate lands south of Al-Karamah. Final designs and tender documents are likely to be ready by the end of 1987. Work will start at the beginning of 1988 and it is expected to take 3 years. [Text] [Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Nov 86 JN] /12624

CSO: 4400/54

SAUDI ARABIA

RAILROAD DIRECTOR GENERAL DISCUSSES RAILWAY'S PERFORMANCE

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic 10 Sep 86 pp 26-31

[Interview with Raysal al-Shuhayl, Director General of Saudi Railroad Organization: "On First Anniversary of Riyadh-al-Dammam Express Railroad Line, Faysal al-Shuhayl Tells AL-YAMAMAH in Most Comprehensive Interview: Passenger Ticket Cost 200 Riyals and We Sell It at 40 Riyals"]

[Text] The passenger pays only 20 percent of the cost of a ticket on the luxury train which looks like a moving villa between al-Dammam and Riyadh because the price of a ticket is 40 riyals whereas it costs more than 200 riyals. Trucks used to monopolize container shipping, charging more than 3,000 riyals per container. The train has reduced the cost to only 1,700 riyals. Though the current networks' length exceeds 1,700 kilometers, there are numerous studies to examine the economic feasibility of building new lines. When the new passenger stations are opened in the next few months, they will be the most perfect stations of their kind in the Middle East. As for passenger vehicles, they will not be transported on the same train carrying the passenger until a year from now. These are some of the "symbols" which speak for themselves clearly in this interview with Shaykh Faysal al-Shuhayl, the director general of the Railroad Organization. In this interview, al-Shuhayl has answered all of AL-YAMAMAH's questions on the first anniversary of the Riyadh-al-Dammam express railroad line. We wonder: What is the role the railroad plays in transporting passengers, goods and fuels, what are the future horizons of this vital agency and what are the transport "issues" generally, and railroad issues in particular, that can be raised with Faysal al-Shuhayl?

[Question] On the 25th of Dhu al-Hijjah, a full year will have passed on operation of the Riyadh-al-Dammam express line. What is your assessment of the year's experience at the level of both passengers and goods?

[Answer] Let us acknowledge that demand was weak when the line started operating, or let us say that the demand was less than we had expected. But only a few weeks later, people began to be aware of the train's reputation and its importance, especially since it offers a comfortable and excellent service and since travel time has been reduced from 8 hours to 4 hours. I say that when people became aware of these advantages a few weeks after the start

of operation, demand for the express al-Dammam-Riyadh line developed. We are now satisfied with this demand even though we aspire for more. We are now running two trips daily, one trip in each direction. But we want to run four trips daily, two trips in each direction. However, certain operational circumstances and the incompleteness of a number of maintenance shops and stations has delayed the full achievement of this objective. Despite this, on the weekend, especially on Wednesdays and Fridays, we find that there is good demand for the train. This means that the current demand is much better than the demand at the start. The current demand is satisfactory temporarily, but it is below both our estimates and our ambitions.

[Question] How much below your expectations is the demand?

[Answer] Let us say we assume a certain figure, then what has been achieved is 30 percent less than the assumed figure.

[Question] This is insofar as passengers are concerned. What about goods?

[Answer] There is the land depot which is equipped with warehouses, refrigerators, and modern equipment. There is also the great cooperation between the Customs Department and the railroad in clearing goods and containers from the land depot in Riyadh. All these are elements of success. But we must say that the shipping activity in the past few years under the umbrella of the construction and development activity and of the ambitious plans was greater than it is at present. Last year, the shipping activity dropped by 25 percent below previous years. Consequently, freight shipping by railroad dropped by the same percentage. Moreover, the Gulf war has diverted a large part of the goods received in the Central Province from al-Dammam to Jiddah.

Railroad Develops Countries

[Question] Despite the fact that the passenger traffic is 30 percent below what was expected, that freight traffic is 25 percent lower because of the Gulf war, and that the period of major construction projects has ended, don't you think that the size of the existing railroad network is small in comparison with the kingdom's vast area and with the long distances between its population centers?

[Answer] It is well-known that railroads develop countries because cities rise alongside railroads. But this historical role no longer holds the same importance because new factors have developed and weakened the role played by railroads in the past. These factors include the expansion of paved and wide highways, the development in the size of trucks, and the amazing technological development embodied in the leap in the international air traffic moving at high speeds. All these factors have nearly eliminated the train's historical role, not just in the kingdom, but also at the international level. However, we did not succumb to this viewpoint and went ahead with our steps to complete all preparations to create and develop the existing network which has become one of the most modern networks in the area. But the comprehensive

view concerning the construction of a line is not this simple. If we disregard the costs of constructing the line itself, which are enormous, we find that the maintenance and operation cost is very high.

Transportation is the economy's artery and a sign of civilization. The government has made an enormous effort to create a modern transportation network throughout the kingdom--this vast country which people call a continent-like state. The railroad is one of the features of this network. But the fact remains that managing and operating a railroad is enormously costly. Internationally, such facilities are now operating moderately in terms of revenues and heavy expenditures. The most successful railroad networks are the ones that have been able to raise the service to the level whereby 2.5 men are employed per kilometer of railroad. To put it in practical terms, this means that the nearly 400-kilometer long al-Dammam-Riyadh line needs 1,000 men to operate it. You can imagine the size of the costs required for operation.

Moreover, the network we have does not consist of this express line solely. There is the new 440-kilometer long Riyadh-al-Dammam line which is set aside for passengers and the old 565-kilometer long line on which freight trains operate. There are subsidiary lines and branches to the cement plants and to the merchants' warehouses. The current length of this network altogether is 1,700 kilometers and it requires high management, maintenance and operation costs. Therefore, we must first conduct a comparative study on the construction of new railroad lines and other means of transportation, especially in light of the growth in the land transportation and air transportation activity which has reached such a level that there are now 23 airports in the kingdom. These are the aspects that may influence the railroad's future development. We must answer the question raised with a high degree of knowledge and objectivity. The question is: Is it feasible to build a new railroad? This question can be answered only through a comparative economic study covering the other means.

We Transport 60 Percent of Fuels and 70 Percent of Containers

[Question] Is this balanced view of the role of the railroad in comparison with the other means the reason why the railroad transports only 3.5 percent of the goods whereas 80 percent is transported by other land transportation means?

[Answer] I don't know if the figure you have mentioned is accurate or not.

[Question] The source is the development plan.

[Answer] This figure may apply at the level of the kingdom as a whole. But as for transportation between the Central and Eastern Provinces, the situation is different. We transport no less than 60 percent of Petromin's fuels and 70 percent of the containerized goods, not to mention other commodities such as iron, cement, and so forth. The train has lightened the burdens of land transportation by land. It has reduced the cost of transporting containers from 3,000 riyals to 1,700 riyals per container, thus breaking the trucking

monopoly on containers. The reduced cost has served the interest of the merchant, the consumer, and the economy generally. We do not view the economic yield as the sole objective. Rather, we consider the general national interest. It is not our objective to make profit. Rather, we seek primarily to provide the country with a certain service.

[Question] In light of the facts you have mentioned about creating and developing the railroad and about the railroad's performance of an ever-growing role, do you think that the railroad's existing installations are enough to meet the requirements of the fourth development plan?

[Answer] We have applied for all the basic installations needed by the plan and they have been approved. Moreover, the installations already built can accommodate greater activity than exists at present.

[Question] By what rate has the freight activity increased or decreased in terms of tons and kilometers, especially since the introduction of containers in recent years?

[Answer] At the outset, our revenues from the land depot alone amounted to 120 million riyals annually. This figure dropped to 90 million last year. There is a drop of nearly 30 percent and we have pointed out its causes, the most significant of which is the delivery of goods to Jiddah Port because of the Gulf war.

[Question] Can the drop in the economic growth rates result in a similar drop in the growth of the volume of transported goods?

[Answer] The economic growth has not declined. It is now moving at a normal rate. But when one compares what is happening now with what happened during the past 10 or 15 years, one gets the impression of some sort of a recession. This is not true because in the major construction phase the kingdom imported the infra-structure requirements at a vast rate and in a manner which created a crisis in the ports and bottlenecks in the kingdom's main outlets. One cannot use that phase for comparison purposes. What can be compared with is the normal situation.

[Question] What point has the project to turn al-Dammam-al-Hufuf line into a dual line reached?

[Answer] It has been completed.

[Question] What is the news of the new al-Hufuf-Riyadh line which reduces the distance by 120 kilometers?

[Answer] It has been completed and in operation for a year. The line proceeds from al-Dammam to al-Hufuf via the dual line. From al-Hufuf, the new line proceeds to Riyadh directly, thus reducing the distance by 120 kilometers and steering clear of the old line which swerves to Hard and al-Kharj before reaching Riyadh.

We Have 3,700 Freight Cars

[Question] When will the passenger express trains run several trips daily?

[Answer] Upon inaugurating the line, our objective was to run four trips daily. But because of purely operational reasons connected with reduced manpower, with delay by the contractor in completing the station, and with failure to complete the workshops, we were compelled to run only two trips daily, using eight to ten cars on every train. However, we could use four or five cars on each trip so that it may be said that there are two trips daily in each direction.

[Question] When will the Riyadh-al-Dammam line operate on Thursdays?

[Answer] We have studied the passenger traffic on Thursdays and found that it is so small that it does not merit running a train because the operation will then be uneconomical. The passenger goes to Riyadh or al-Dammam on Wednesday and returns on Friday. This is what we are doing at present.

[Question] What are the components of the railroad fleet? For example, how many traction engines, how many shunting engines, how many passenger cars, and how many freight cars? Is this fleet sufficient?

[Answer] We have 58 traction and shunting engines, and more than 2,700 freight cars, and 60 passenger cars. In light of the operation capabilities and requirements, this fleet is more than enough in the present phase.

[Question] Trucks enjoy competitive advantages including, first, cheap fuel and, second, the absence of road taxes. These advantages enable trucks to monopolize nearly 80 percent of the volume of goods transported. How do you in the railroad counter this competitive advantage enjoyed by highway transportation?

[Answer] We have countered it by reducing the shipping costs. A train is cheaper and safer than trucks, as proven by the merchants' and citizens' demand for shipping by train. This is first. Second, the creation of the land depot and the customs clearance of goods in Riyadh spare the merchant the need to come to Riyadh to clear his goods and then to ship them. We not only do this but also go as far as delivering the goods to the merchant where he is. This is included as a part of the tariff.

Ticket Costs 200 Riyals and Is Sold for 40 Riyals

[Question] Is the tariff for shipping by train below the operation cost limit and how much does the state pay in subsidy?

[Answer] The tariff in this case is divided into two kinds: Passenger tariff and freight tariff. The cost of transporting passengers is very enormous because the train used at present looks like a mobile villa, considering that it contains everything, beginning with air-conditioning, a restaurant and bathrooms, and ending with television and video. Despite this, the passenger

pays 40 riyals only for a second class ticket and 60 riyals for a super first class ticket, even though a ticket costs more than 200 riyals. This means that the passenger pays only 20 percent of the ticket cost. This is the state policy which seeks to serve the citizens at the lowest cost possible. The situation is not much different insofar as goods are concerned because the objective is, again, not profit but to serve the national economy. I have told you that we have brought the cost of transporting a container from 3,000 riyals down to 1,700 riyals.

[Question] Are there feasibility studies to build more railroad lines in comparison with the alternative means of transportation?

[Answer] An old study conducted by the Ministry of Planning before the major expansion in the network of modern highways and new airports supported the construction of new railroad lines. But no decision was made on the study and it was deemed necessary to wait for a time. In the light of these changes, a new study must be conducted to compare with the other means of transportation and to determine the economic feasibility of such lines. In any case, the government does not hold back in meeting the demands of development and growth.

[Question] What has been done in connection with linking al-Jubayl with al-Dammam by railroad?

[Answer] The Jubayl-al-Dammam project is not one of the railroad's projects. It is a project requested by the al-Jubayl and Yanbu' Royal Authority. We are prepared to implement if the Royal Authority so requests. It remains to be said that the Jubayl-al-Dammam line is not just an 80-kilometer line but a line that extends 100 more kilometers in al-Jubayl itself.

[Question] What is the news of the long line between Jiddah and Riyadh?

[Answer] This line also depends on the study. The Ministry of Communication recently organized a symposium in the venerable Mecca which discussed several projects, including the construction of a Jiddah-Riyadh line and railroad lines between the holy places. That was a symposium to make recommendations. But implementation is something else because it depends on the presence of objective and economic justifications for building new railroad lines. I personally believe that in light of the completed highway network, of the expansion in the construction of airports, and of the kingdom's low population density, there may be no need for building an extensive railroad network in the kingdom.

[Question] Does this also apply to the planned line between Riyadh and al-Qasim?

[Answer] The study, which is about to be completed, contains the answer to all the questions on the proposed lines.

Effective Participation by Private Sector

[Question] Does the private sector, at any level, have a chance to participate in the area of railroads?

[Answer] I believe that there is a firm connection between the railroad and the private sector. The railroad has been built for this sector fundamentally and it channels its services toward this sector. The Railroad Board of Directors includes two businessmen, namely Shaykh Sa'd al-Mu'jil, the chairman of the Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce, and Shaykh 'Abdallah Kanu. The volume of the transactions between the railroad and the private sector may become clear to you when you learn that three quarters of the warehouses built in al-Damman are no land belonging to the railroad and are rented for commerce and have lines to transport their goods. We have also distributed 400 plots of land on al-Kharj Road in Riyadh to merchants and warehouses have already been built on them. On the other hand, it is the railroad's duty to help the merchants market their goods by facilitating their transportation. We have, for example, agreed with a national cement-importing company to transport the quantities it imports from al-Dammam to Riyadh for 9 million riyals which the company pays the railroad annually.

[Question] What is the news on construction of the passenger terminals in al-Damman, al-Hufuf, and Riyadh?

[Answer] The construction of these terminals has been delayed by the contractor for a number of reasons, some personal, and some beyond his control. However, these terminals are nearing completion and will be completed in 4 or 5 months. They will be equipped at a most advanced level, with nothing to match them in the Middle East.

[Question] It is noticed that there is emphasis on the issue of maintenance and operation in the railroad. This is an issue connected with the workshops and represents a very important aspect of this facility. What is the news of the workshops. For example, what about implementation of the second phase of the new workshops in al-Dammam for the maintenance of locomotives and wheels?

[Answer] As we have already noted, there are hundreds of freight cars and tens of passenger cars and locomotives. They all need constant maintenance. This maintenance requires fully-equipped workshops. A number of workshops were built during the preceding three 5-year plans. An enormous workshop capable of accommodating 140 locomotives is under construction, even though we have only 58 locomotives at present. But we plan for the distant future. The work to build the hull has been completed. As for the importation and installation of the equipment, it will take some time. The passenger cars workshop has been fully completed.

[Question] There is also the maintenance workshop in Riyadh?

[Answer] The fact is that the main and basic workshops are in al-Dammam. The other workshops in Riyadh or elsewhere are assisting workshops. The capacity of the dry docks has increased from 600,000 to 900,000 square meters.

[Question] Has the capacity of the Riyadh dry dock increased and are there plans for this port?

[Answer] The dry docks were expanded last year. This port's plan called for 600,000 square meters. But it has been increased this year by 300,000 square meters, thus bringing the total area up to 900,000 square meters. This capacity can accommodate more than our current needs, especially in light of the relative decrease in imports. We try to make up for the small volume of containers of transported by train in other ways, including negotiations with car dealers to have a larger number of cars transported by train.

[Question] There is a noticeable shortage in the number of trained personnel in the railroad. How can this shortage be covered?

[Answer] The veteran workers and employees of the railroad are well-trained and they are the ones carrying the organization on their shoulders at present. As for the young generation, it does not, regrettably, respond to appeals to work in the railroad. We have a vocational training center in the railroad and it has been acknowledged by the Civil Service Bureau and by the other government agencies. We constantly advertise for the enrollment of new batches in this center. Regrettably, the response is not adequate. When we found that there was no big interest from outside the organization, we exerted efforts to develop the skills of the workers in charge of the work and nearly 700 employees and trainees have been graduated so far.

[Question] Is there a possibility of building a Gulf railroad?

[Answer] Their excellencies the ministers of transport and communications in the Gulf states have studied this issue thoroughly. It is my personal opinion that the priority in building a Gulf railroad must begin with Kuwait-Basra, then Kuwait-al-Jubayl, and then al-Jubayl-al-Dammam. This means that we can get to Europe by train. If the objective of building a network between the kingdom and the Gulf states is purely economic, then such a network is unfeasible. But if the objective is social and political, then the issue is up to the higher policy.

[Question] What were the expenditures on the railroad in the previous plan and what are they in the current plan?

[Answer] The third plan was a construction plan whereas the fourth plan is an operation plan. In the previous plan, the expenditures amounted to 4.45 billion riyals and 95 percent of the projects were implemented. What remains is the equipment for the stations and the workshops only. The fourth plan has its visualization and its priorities because it is totally different from the previous plans. In any case, operation and maintenance costs cannot be compared with construction costs. All the revenues do not even cover the operation costs.

[Question] It is noteworthy that you focus on the management, maintenance, and operation points on which the fourth plan is founded now that the infrastructures have been completed. What are your views on these points?

[Answer] Under all circumstances, the operational efficiency must be increased, the costs must be watched and squeezed, high performance criteria must be established, individual capability must be enhanced, and productivity must be improved. All this requires a degree of job flexibility by virtue of the nature of the organization. We are not a bureaucratic government agency. The nature of the railroad which operates 24 hours daily dictates that we adopt the system of immediate reward and punishment. This is why job powers in the railroad must be given in such a way as to make capability and experience, not degrees, the criterion for evaluation. We have, for example, workers who started as office boys and who have now risen to head workshops even though they do not possess academic qualifications. What they possess is a rare expertise that has enabled them to rise to grade 11 or grade 12. This group requires special flexibility in job treatment because the nature of the railroad cannot be reconciled with the strict rules of the Civil Service Bureau. The civil service system is a good system for bureaucratic work. But technical work has its special requirements.

Greater Job Flexibility Required

[Question] But there are other organizations where the work is similar in nature to the railroad's work, such as the airlines or ports, which means you are not the only case.

[Answer] There are benefits that encourage the employees to stay, such as housing, the recreation complex, and other benefits. This social aspect represents an element of attraction for working in the railroad.

[Question] What is the size of the Saudi Public Railroad Organization's manpower?

[Answer] The organization has 1,950 employees, 70 percent of whom are technicians and the rest administrators. One half the workers are Saudis. At present, we don't need to increase the manpower, unless both passenger traffic and freight traffic increase.

[Question] Regarding the question of manpower, do you have plans to develop the training center, to supply it with instructors, or to send people from the center for training abroad?

[Answer] We now have equipped workshops that offer theoretical and practical studies. We exert efforts to attract young elements, larger numbers of whom can be absorbed. We are also providing the present center with student housing and so forth.

[Question] Have some of the fourth plan's projects for the railroad been postponed or cancelled?

[Answer] No, nothing has been cancelled. If we are talking about the al-Jubayl line as one of the fourth plan's projects, then its implementation depends on the Royal Authority.

[Question] How can the railroad's economic efficiency be enhanced?

[Answer] Marketing, meaning the transportation of goods, is the most important thing. There is then the railroad's reputation as a comfortable transportation facility. We must also look for new revenue sources, such as building lines to the cement factories, as we have already done with the Saudi-Bahrain Plant. We must also familiarize the citizens with the significance and role of the railroad. When the workshops and stations are completed and when two trips are run in each direction daily, the efficiency may increase. This means that there are administrative, marketing, technical, and manpower elements which together contribute to enhancing the organization's efficiency.

[Question] How many passengers and tons of goods were transported last year?

[Answer] We transported last year 168,585 passengers, at the rate of 14,490 passengers monthly. As for goods, we transported 899,230 tons, at the rate of 75,000 tons monthly. We also transported 324,510 tons of fuels, at the rate of 27,000 tons monthly, and 31,546 containers, at the rate of 2,628 containers monthly.

Computer Introduced into Railroad

[Question] Are there studies and research on transportation by railroad and what do these studies say?

[Answer] There are numerous studies, including an organizational study on internal work prepared for us by the Management Institute, a second study on introducing the computer into the railroad, and a third study on a signals system that increases speed and prevents accidents. There are economic feasibility studies on building more lines in the kingdom in contrast with the other means of transportation, such as aviation, asphalted highways, and maritime shipping.

[Question] Are there short-term plans to raise the level of the currently existing facilities?

[Answer] Yes. Let us take the workshops sector as an example. The maintenance of machinery and the storage, retrieval, and replacement of spare parts in warehouses have been developed through the use of computers. There is coordination between the various sectors and the existing skills are developed in accordance with the latest international developments in railroads.

[Question] Is thought being given to reducing transportation costs to both passenger and merchant below their current levels?

[Answer] Everything is possible. But at present, the current prices represent the minimum. I have already told you that we sell a ticket which costs us 200 riyals for 40 riyals and that a container which used to cost 3,000 riyals to be transported by truck is now transported for 1,700 riyals. The cost may drop if freight traffic increases and if the number of trips in each direction increases to 2 trips daily. When that happens, we will be able to compete with the other means, such as planes.

[Question] Is there coordination in investment in highways, railroads, aviation, and maritime shipping so that excess spending may be avoided?

[Answer] The Board of Directors has approved investment regulations that call for cooperation with the Hotels Company to exploit the land belonging to the present station in the center of al-Dammam and which has an area of 54,000 square meters to build a marketing center, a car park, a hotel, and apartment buildings. This project costs 500 million riyals and it has been divided into two phases, with the hotel slatted for the second phase. We will begin with the first phase. Furthermore, the railroad owns vast tracts of land, in addition to the warehouses. We can go into partnership with people who wish to utilize these lands to build a hotel or a hospital, for example. Such projects can contribute to improving the railroad's revenues.

[Question] When can the passengers' vehicles be transported on the same train carrying the passengers?

[Answer] In not less than a year. The reasons is purely technical. We do transport cars at present but in the freight train which has been designed so that its speed may not exceed 60 kilometers per hour. The speed of the passenger train is 150 kilometers per hour even though it travels at a speed of 120 kilometers. This means that the current freight cars cannot be tied to the passenger train because their wheels cannot withstand this train's speed.

This "dialogue" with Shaykh Faysal al-Shuhayl extended to include all the questions that can be raised on the kingdom's railroad. The man did not hesitate to answer any question. He did not even use paper or pen but relied on his lively memory to supply the details and figures. Even though the dialogue lasted long, Shaykh al-Shuhayl never abandoned his smile. When I finished my questions, he asked me: Are there no more questions? I said: No, we can drink the coffee now.

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CSO: 4404/47

SYRIA

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES SITUATION IN LEBANON

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Oct 86 pp 29-32

[Interview with Faruq al-Shara', Syrian minister of foreign affairs, in New York during the 41st session of the UN General Assembly: "Syria Is Committed to Defending the Gulf Nations Against Any Attack!"; date of interview not given]

[Text] Al-Jumayyil has placed himself outside the framework of the dialogue.

The security of Israel will remain threatened behind the front lines if Israel does not withdraw from Lebanon.

During the 41st session of the UN General Assembly in New York, AL-HAWADITH held an interview with the foreign minister of Syria, Mr Faruq al-Shara'. The interview dealt with developments in Lebanon, especially recent developments in Beirut.

In addition to this, the interview dealt with Syrian-Jordanian relations and what is being said concerning an international conference and the degree to which Syria is prepared to support this idea. Also, the interview touched upon Syria's relations with Iran on the one hand as well as its relations with the Gulf nations on the other hand, and Syria's position concerning the present state of affairs with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war. The following is the text of the interview:

[Question] There is a danger involving the interim UN forces in South Lebanon. The danger is that the nations contributing troops to these forces will declare that they have already suffered enough and they will have to withdraw their troops. What are the dimensions of this danger with respect to Lebanon and with respect to the possibility of a direct military confrontation between Syria and Israel?

[Answer] We have never at any time been opposed to the emergency forces in South Lebanon. In fact, the opposite has been the case. We have supported these forces and every time the secretary general or his assistant has come to Syria, we have expressed to him the fact that we support the UN forces. However, we have always coupled this support with the assertion that the

basic mission of these forces is to deploy as far as the border of Lebanon. Israel is the party that has thwarted this mission, and it is still doing so. Israel has been against the UN forces ever since the Security Council adopted Resolution Number 425. The second point is that we believe that these forces have been the victim of hostilities ever since they have been deployed in South Lebanon and they have had to confront numerous attacks, especially on the part of the so-called Army of South Lebanon which is supported by Israel and which is Israel's client. Recently skirmishes have taken place between the UN forces and some of the Lebanese National Forces. Perhaps a mistake occurred at the beginning of these developments when French soldiers opened fire on elements of the Amal militia and killed three members of that group, and then matters accelerated to the extent that they led to the killing of a large number of French soldiers and soldiers from other nations also. In short, those who mounted the recent attacks say that Israel is the party which is preventing the UN emergency forces from deploying up to the border. The presence of UN forces in Lebanon means protection for Israel's security. We believe that if the UN and the nations sending their forces to Lebanon would put pressure on Israel to carry out General Assembly Resolution Number 425 and if the UN forces would deploy along the border, there would no longer be any justification for attacking the UN forces as has occurred during recent months.

[Question] But all of the indications seem to show that Israel is not prepared to give up its so-called security belt. Within one week the secretary general of the UN is supposed to present his report, and more than likely he will say that Israel will not be cooperating with him. So it is Israel that is rejecting what you are hoping for and what the Security Council as a whole is hoping for. What are the dangers which are looming, particularly if the UN forces are withdrawn?

[Answer] We should put into proper perspective the concern about the dangers that the UN forces are being exposed to. We share this concern with regard to this matter. We regret the casualties which have been suffered by the French soldiers. But, at the same time, we refuse to allow this matter to be exploited in order to force us to change our position with regard to the necessity of having the UN troops deploy up to the Israeli-Lebanese border and with regard to Israel completing a total withdrawal from South Lebanon. Otherwise this is fraud. We will not scream if the UN forces withdraw. If the objective of the UN forces is to not deploy as far as the international border or if Israel's objective is to thwart the role played by the UN forces or not to allow the full implementation of Resolution Number 425, then in that case it is Israel which should be screaming the loudest. We believe that Israel should take responsibility for the consequences of the abuse which has been suffered by the UN forces, if they withdraw, because if this happens the Lebanese national resistance will not die down. In fact, it will escalate. The fact is that right now it is escalating. The security belt business is nothing more than a means of providing cover for Israeli expansion. Actually, Israel's security will remain threatened inside occupied Palestine if Israel does not withdraw from South Lebanon.

[Question] If the UN forces withdraw from South Lebanon, does this mean that there will be an even greater danger of a Syrian-Israeli confrontation than there is right now?

[Answer] There is always the likelihood of Israeli aggression, and we always take this into account. Such a likelihood exists merely due to the fact that Israel continues to occupy Arab territory and continues to deny the inhabitants of these areas their rights.

[Question] What I mean is, if the UN forces are withdrawn, who will take their place? Will a withdrawal of these forces escalate the danger of a direct confrontation between Syria and Israel?

[Answer] Israel does not attach much importance to the UN. Consequently, this matter does not depend on the presence or absence of the UN forces. But the presence of the UN forces on the border certainly would obligate Israel to respect the resolutions of the Security Council out of deference to the international community and this would make it possible to put real pressure on Israel and to hold it responsible in case it undertakes any attack.

[Question] Due to recent developments, should we be more concerned that there will take place a Syrian-Israeli skirmish in the Biqa' area or in some other location?

[Answer] As I said just a minute ago, the Syrian leaders always take this possibility into account.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, allow me to bring up the accusations which have recently surfaced as a result of developments in Beirut, such as the accusations voiced by Samir Ja'ja'. According to these accusations, Syria is behind the preparations to attack al-Ashrafiyah and the objective of this is to revive the tripartite agreement and to revive the role played by Hubayqah. What is your response to these accusations?

[Answer] This is completely false. There is a crisis going on inside the Lebanese Forces and inside the Phalangist organization, and this crisis has existed for a long time. The crisis does not require anyone to intervene because it exists. Some statements have even been issued by the Lebanese Forces themselves which indicate the existence of the crisis. Syria has never been a party in the Lebanese crisis, nor has it been a party in any internal conflict among the Lebanese, whether the conflict has been an internal conflict within a particular faction or a conflict between particular factions. If Syria--and this should suffice as a response to this question--had been behind what recently happened in Beirut, Ja'ja' would have had no opportunity to make such a statement.

[Question] People are also asking how it is possible for East Beirut to be attacked from West Beirut when Syria is in charge of security affairs in West Beirut.

[Answer] Syria has observers who are supervising the security matters which are being administered by the Lebanese army and the domestic security forces. The number of Syrian observers in Beirut is small.

[Question] Has Syria had no role in supervising the security situation in Beirut? Has Syria played no role with regard to security?

[Answer] Of course. The role here is not one involving the use of military force. The role is one of moral force, and Syria plays this role with respect to the Lebanese factions in order that public security be stabilized. This is a point which I would like to clarify. I have clarified it in interviews with some organs of the foreign press. They consider that Syria's influence in Lebanon is merely the result of the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon. This is not an accurate assessment, because if it were merely a matter of military force, then the multinational forces would still be in Beirut and Israel would still be occupying the greater part of Lebanon. Historical relations between Syria and Lebanon and fraternal ties between the two nations are what constitute the basis of the relationship and are what are responsible for this influence which Syria has. This is an important point because we are always seeing Syria's presence in Lebanon misunderstood and we are always seeing the dimensions of Syria's influence in Lebanon misunderstood when it comes to finding a solution or stopping the internal bloodshed in Lebanon.

[Question] On the strength of what you have said with regard to Syria playing a basic political role in Lebanon, it appears that the plans for a national accord are nothing but ink on paper. Once again efforts to achieve unity in Lebanon have failed, and efforts to arrive at a solution to the problems between the various factions in Lebanon have failed. What is the reason for this? Is it the fact that it is impossible to solve Lebanon's problem, or is it because Syria has failed to properly play its political role which is based on the historical relationship between the two nations?

[Answer] Syria has not failed in Lebanon. Syria has never said on any occasion that it constitutes a substitute for the Lebanese or that it would rule Lebanon on behalf of the Lebanese. Syria always says that it is prepared to offer assistance in order to achieve a national accord in Lebanon. The importance of this assistance depends on the willingness of the Lebanese to reach a mutual understanding among themselves and sit down at a table and hold a dialogue, and it depends on the willingness of all of the conflicting Lebanese factions to arrive at a solution. This is why we cannot say that Syria has failed. On the contrary, Syria has achieved some important things for Lebanon. As long as you are bringing up the issue of to what degree the role played by Syria in Lebanon has been a failure or a success, we should point out to you that we believe that Syria has been able to put a stop to the great amount of bloodshed that was going on in Lebanon. The fighting now is on a considerably reduced level. We can no longer say that there is large-scale or all-encompassing fighting going on

between the various factions in Lebanon. Furthermore, Syria has also been able to help the Lebanese conduct a dialogue with each other, and there has been some success in this regard. But Syria, as I have pointed out, is not able to take the place of the Lebanese in this dialogue. The Lebanese themselves are the ones who have to conduct the dialogue. Even in Lausanne, Geneva, and Damascus, Syria was merely an observer at the political meetings which the Lebanese held. Syria helped the various parties find compromise solutions when differences arose between them. The most important achievement accomplished by Syria is the fact that there still is a nation called Lebanon. We believe that all of the calamities and dangers that Lebanon was subjected to because of the Israeli invasion, its aftermath, the arrival of the multinational forces, the siege of Beirut, the signing of the May 17 agreement, and so on were calamities and dangers that were halted by Syria, with the help of the Lebanese National Forces. Syria and the Lebanese National Forces soundly defeated the multinational forces and Israel. Whoever would have thought that Israel would withdraw from Lebanon? It was the Lebanese resistance that forced Israel to withdraw. They forced them to withdraw not from all of Lebanon, but at least from part of Lebanon. The multinational forces were also forced to withdraw from Lebanon. Consequently it has become clear that it is possible for Syria, more than any other nation in the world, to provide assistance to Lebanon. However, this assistance is certainly very dependent on the role which the Lebanese play among themselves.

[Question] What is likely to be the future of this dialogue after the invasion of East Beirut from West Beirut? Is a military solution more likely than a solution based on a successful dialogue?

[Answer] Syria has always been against a military solution. Ever since the beginning of the Lebanese civil war, it has been Syria that has promoted the national accord. Furthermore, I am sure that those who are working toward a military solution in East Beirut are fundamentally unable to achieve this military solution. They are able to either reject or obstruct a dialogue, but this is all they are able to do. Of course, we should not forget that the United States and Israel have contributed toward placing obstacles in the way of achieving a tripartite agreement and have put obstacles in the path of a successful internal dialogue.

[Question] Do you mean to say that the U.S. does not want Syria to be successful in bringing about a successful dialogue and national accord in Lebanon?

[Answer] America's problem in the Middle East is that it only listens to the opinion of Israel and does not listen to the opinion of any other nation. In my speech to the General Assembly, I was not able to isolate Israel from the U.S. because U.S. policy in the Middle East is the policy which Israel imposes upon Washington.

[Question] Syria's rupture of relations with Amin al-Jumayyil still is in effect. Does Syria have any conditions for the resumption of a dialogue with him?

[Answer] We are not imposing conditions upon anyone. The important thing is that any Lebanese faction or party be sincere in its desire to promote the progress of the dialogue and arrive at a solution which satisfies all of the Lebanese. We basically have not dictated our opinions to anyone, nor have we refused to meet with anyone. However, there are parties in the Lebanese conflict which, because of their actions and behavior, are placing themselves outside the framework of the dialogue.

[Question] Is Amin al-Jumayyil one of these parties?

[Answer] So far, yes.

[Question] What is it necessary for him to do to place himself within the framework of the dialogue?

[Answer] This is a question which should be directed to him.

[Question] Some of the Lebanese factions are demanding that Amin al-Jumayyil's period of presidency be shortened or that he be dismissed from the presidency. Does Syria also demand this?

[Answer] These really are internal Lebanese matters.

[Question] Would Syria agree to this demand?

[Answer] We would agree to anything upon which the Lebanese unanimously agree.

[Question] Where is this unanimous opinion to be found?

[Answer] This is precisely the problem.

[Question] Do you mean to say that you have not taken a position with regard to the demand on the part of some Lebanese factions that al-Jumayyil be dismissed from the presidency or that his period of presidency be curtailed?

[Answer] We have not at all dealt with this problem. But if the Lebanese parties come to an agreement among themselves, then they are free [to do as they wish, as far as we are concerned].

[Question] Let us move on to the Middle East problem. There has been a Soviet proposal that a preliminary committee in the Security Council hold meetings that would pave the way for an international conference to solve the Middle East problem. There has also been an Egyptian proposal that a preliminary committee in the Security Council pave the way for a conference which would deal with the Middle East problem. What is your position with regard to these proposals?

[Answer] We remain committed to our principles and positions which are well-known and which are sound. Considerable effort is being undertaken to mislead public opinion in Egypt and in the Middle East, and these efforts to mislead public opinion are being undertaken by the regime in Egypt. I will give you an example of this. They have claimed that Shimon Peres, in the Alexandria meeting, accepted the idea of an international conference and they engaged in a lot of fanfare inside Egypt and in the Egyptian media, saying that there had been a great dramatic change in Israel's position. After Peres returned from Alexandria, and during a debate which he was participating in in the Israeli Knesset, Peres said that he did not at all have in mind the international conference which other people are referring to. In other words, he did not at all have in mind a real international conference under the sponsorship of the UN and with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all of the parties involved. Here in New York I met with a great many of the foreign ministers from both the East and the West. It was clear from the meetings which took place between some of the European foreign ministers as well as between the Israelis and the Egyptians that they were wondering how Egypt could make statements concerning Israel's positions and Israel was denying that these were its positions. It is not a matter of Egypt being naive. This is an attempt to lighten the pressure of the Egyptian people's hostility to Camp David and to the Alexandria meeting. They wanted to give the impression that there had been a change in Israeli policy, and this is why they received Peres in Alexandria and this is why there was all this fanfare during his visit. But reality tells us something different. We have not sensed any change. All of the ministers whom I have met with have agreed that there has been no change at all in the Israeli position after the Alexandria meeting.

[Question] The Egyptian foreign minister says that the Alexandria proposal concerning the preliminary committee is the same proposal which was presented by the Soviet Union. What is Syria's position with regard to the Soviet proposal?

[Answer] We are in favor of an international conference under the sponsorship of the UN, attended by all of the parties involved as well as the five permanent nations of the Security Council. This is the Soviet proposal, and we favor it.

[Question] What are you doing in order to make it more possible to implement this proposal so that it will become a reality?

[Answer] The five member nations of the Security Council are the ones which are able to take the initiative now, and they should do it. However, I would like to comment on what Egypt has said, because what Egypt is saying is for both domestic consumption and for consumption in the Arab world. They are deceiving themselves and deceiving others. But this deception has been uncovered because the positions have been announced in Israel. Yitzhak Shamir, who took over the reins of government this month, said when talking on U.S. television: "We will keep on building settlements in the West Bank." When

he was asked how he could do this since the West Bank constitutes occupied Arab territory, he answered that the West Bank is liberated Israeli territory. Where does this leave the Egyptian position?

[Question] No doubt you have discussed the idea of the preliminary committee with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze. How do the Soviets intend to promote their proposal?

[Answer] It is still necessary to engage in more contacts before the idea of this proposal can be successful. According to my information, right now the Soviet Union is engaging in contacts with the permanent member nations of the Security Council, and this is all that is being done. We cannot predict now what will happen. Our conviction is that neither the U.S. nor Israel wants peace. All of these matters are tantamount to a process of lulling people to sleep. The aim of the process is to lull to sleep some Arab parties which like being lulled to sleep.

[Question] Are you annoyed about the fact that Mr Shevardnadze, the foreign minister of the USSR, is meeting with Mr Peres, the prime minister of Israel? Does Syria get annoyed when it hears talk about Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations being resumed?

[Answer] The Soviet Union is a superpower, and as such it has its broad interests throughout the world. As far as we are concerned, our point of view is clear with regard to this matter. We are against any nation in the world having contacts with Israel. We favor severing diplomatic relations with Israel, and we are active in the African arena, Asia, and in Latin America in order to promote this goal. Consequently we cannot feel happy when we see any friendly nation or fellow-Arab nation engaging in contacts with our enemy. For this reason we were against the Ifrane meeting, against Camp David, and against some of the African nations resuming relations with Israel. This is a position which we have taken on principle, and it applies to everyone.

[Question] In your speech to the General Assembly, you focused on the problem of terrorism and the hostages in Lebanon. You also met with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. Were these two matters the most important elements in the conversation that took place between the two of you?

[Answer] No, during my meeting with Mr Shultz we did not discuss the matter of terrorism at all. The Middle East problem and the problem of Lebanon are the topics that were brought up. With regard to the Middle East problem, we affirmed our well-known point of view, which is that we favor an international conference under the sponsorship of the UN. Also, we categorically rejected partial and unilateral solutions based on the Camp David agreements and other such agreements. We also made it clear that the Ifrane and Alexandria meetings had done damage to the Arab cause. I told Mr Shultz that, if we consider the matter either from the national or the regional point of view, I do not believe that King Hasan II enjoys the same status that he enjoyed before the meeting which took place in Morocco.

[Question] Did you discuss the question of the hostages?

[Answer] No, we did not discuss it. We affirmed our belief that Israel's objective in insisting on direct negotiations was to create further divisions within the Arab ranks, to deal with each Arab nation individually, and to impose Israel's conditions on each Arab nation. In other words, we believe that Israel considers direct negotiations to be an end in itself, and we feel that Israel really does not want peace. We believe that Israel wants to avoid giving back the occupied Arab territories and wants to avoid guaranteeing the Palestinian people its national rights.

[Question] How are your relations with Jordan now?

[Answer] They are normal relations.

[Question] Jordan right now is working on improving the living conditions of the people in the West Bank, and they are doing this within the framework of an economic program which is to be implemented during the next 5 years and involves the setting up of a bank which will be the first of its kind since the Israeli occupation. What is your position with regard to these Jordanian positions? Is there any difference between Syria and Jordan as far as these matters are concerned? How do these matters affect relations between Syria and Jordan?

[Answer] We agree with Jordan concerning basic matters which relate to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We have come to an agreement concerning the fact that we are against Camp David, against partial and unilateral solutions, in favor of an international conference under the sponsorship of the UN, and against direct negotiations with the Israeli enemy. We have not been able to agree concerning all of the details which could be discussed. You never have two nations agreeing on all details and particulars. In any case, our framework of agreement is restricted to those main points which I have mentioned.

[Question] The Jordanians say that the steps which they are undertaking in the West Bank constitute an option which is better than that of losing the territory of the West Bank. Their analysis--or justification, if you wish--is that the West Bank is an extension of Jordan. They say that, since there are no other solutions, they have to prevent this territory from permanently falling into the hands of the Israelis.

[Answer] Let me say once again that we have not discussed these matters. We would have to study the positive and negative repercussions that such a step would involve.

[Question] According to your understanding of the Jordanian position, is the Amman agreement between Jordan and the PLO no longer in effect?

[Answer] Your question is an attempt to revive it.

[Question] Let us talk about the rapprochement between Syria and Iraq. You raised people's hopes, and then you dashed them. I am talking about Syria and Iraq and the fact that the people in the Arab world were hoping that an accord between Syria and Iraq would come into existence.

[Answer] The one who dashed people's hopes was the party which got the Iraqi people involved in this war due to miscalculations and inaccurate assessments. This particular party is still incapable of arriving at a serious solution to get the Iraqi people out of this mess. One might ask what we have to do with this. Yes, this does concern us. We are concerned about this because we are concerned about the suffering that the Iraqi people are undergoing--just as we would be concerned about the suffering of any Arab people in any Arab country. No matter what the pressures are, no matter what accusations are brought up, and no matter how greatly the Syrian position with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war is misunderstood in some Arab nations, we still believe that our position is the best and most correct position to take in order to have the Arabs avoid more of the serious consequences which could result from this war.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, there are Arabs that are being killed in this war. Arab territory is now being occupied by Iran. Syria has said that it will not accept the occupation of any Arab territory.

[Answer] This is still true. We do not accept it.

[Question] And Iran is occupying Arab territory.

[Answer] Iraq was occupying Iranian territory.

[Question] You were against Iraq at that time, and we understand this. But the situation has changed. It is now the Iranians who are occupying Arab territory.

[Answer] There is a problem involved when discussing this issue. We Arabs, on the whole, are forgetting the origins of this problem. I sometimes get annoyed when we talk about Israel, and even then I find that some Arab nations are forgetting the origins of that problem and are looking at the problem in reverse. The regime in Iraq is the party that began the war. It is true that now this Iraqi regime is saying that it wants to end the war. But even as the Iraqi regime says this, its actions are not based on an approach of finding a formula for putting an end to this war.

[Question] Iraq has undertaken its initiatives. It has said: "Come let us talk."

[Answer] But the problem has deep roots, and latent resentments have accumulated as a result of the Iraqi army occupying Iranian territory and as a result of the Iraqi media saying that the Iranians are all a bunch of fire-worshippers. How is it possible to simply eliminate all of this by coming

forward with an initiative? Fatal mistakes were committed at the beginning of the war, and it is not easy to simply eliminate their consequences by means of an initiative.

[Question] Syria is an Arab nation which is siding with Iran in its war with Iraq. I do not dispute what you have said about the causes of the war. But the fact is that Iran right now is occupying Arab territory, and Syria says that it is against the occupation of any Arab territory.

[Answer] We are not siding with Iran against Iraq in this war. We cannot accept the occupation of Iraqi territory. But we know objectively who is responsible for the outbreak of this war. We also know why this war was waged, and we know why the Iraqi regime, at the beginning of this war, rejected all Arab attempts at mediation and accused all those who wanted to mediate of being traitors to the Arab cause. This war has gone on for a long time, and it was possible for Iraq to come forward with initiatives of this type previously when Iraq was able to do this. But Iraq did not come forward with any initiatives then. Iraq's initiatives only came after Iran succeeded in kicking the Iraqi army out of its territory.

[Question] Iran has threatened to mount a decisive offensive which would crush Iraq. What is your position now with regard to these threats? Furthermore, Iran has threatened to retaliate against Gulf nations that are supporting Iraq. What is your position with regard to these latter threats?

[Answer] We have stated clearly--and we have also told the Iranians--what our position is with regard to our fellow-Arabs in the Gulf nations. We cannot accept any aggression against any of the Gulf nations and we cannot accept any encroachment upon the Gulf nations. We are committed to defend the Gulf nations against any attack. Why is this? Because the Gulf nations have not attacked Iran, they have not engaged in any aggression against Iran, and they have not taken it upon themselves to wage war against Iran. This issue should be understood only in this context. It is for this reason that we should distinguish between a regime which embarked upon committing a huge mistake--a historic mistake, the consequences of which it must bear, and we cannot help this regime unless it acquires a broad and all-encompassing view of matters such that it chooses to get out of the predicament which it is in--and Arab nations which have not involved themselves in this war, which have not waged war, and which have not gotten themselves involved in dangerous situations and positions which they are not able to justify.

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AFGHANISTAN

KABUL FLIGHTS, USSR TV RELAY, OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

London MEED/THE MIDDLE EAST'S BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 18-24 Oct 86 p 3

[Text]

● Regular flights to West Europe from Kabul could start up again soon following a decision in the summer by seven European states to lift a four-year ban on national carrier **Bakhtar**.

Afghan Airlines. The first cargo flight since 1982 landed in Frankfurt in September; the Afghan embassy in London hopes London, Paris and Rome will also grant landing permission soon. Bakhtar merged with Ariana Afghan Airlines in October 1985. Its fleet of **Boeing** 727s is soon to be boosted with **Tupolev** TU-154s and **Ilyushin** L-76 cargo aircraft from the Soviet Union's **Aeroflot**.

● Kabul has called on the World Bank to lift its loans embargo, imposed after Soviet troops intervened in 1979. "We regrettably witness that development assistance has been totally denied to us by the western countries and also by some of the international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, contrary to the objectives underlying the establishment of these institutions," Da Afghanistan Bank (central bank) governor Mohamed Kabir told the annual meeting of the IMF on 2 October.

● The Soviet Union is to help to set up 20 television relay stations. The move is part of government plans to bring Afghan and Soviet programmes to all parts of the country. The late-September agreement also provided for co-operation in light industry and commerce. In addition, Moscow is to supply 1,050 trucks and

700 other vehicles, according to a 10-year credit agreement.

● Electricity production will be increased by more than 24 per cent during the present five-year development plan (1986-91), the Bakhtar news agency has reported. This will be achieved by building hydroelectric power stations, and completing a power line from the Soviet Union. In addition 10 micro-hydroelectric power stations will be set up, at a combined cost of Af 200 million (\$3.9 million). Production of solar energy is being studied at Kabul university; it is being used to heat water in the university cafeteria and at the Afghanistan Institute for the Blind.

● The Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross is negotiating with the government to open a centre for war-wounded in Kabul. The organisation, which runs two packed hospitals in Pakistan, is also pressing for permission to inspect the capital's prisons and visit jailed opponents of the government, says delegate Jean-Michel Monod. The Red Cross cut off prison visits in 1982, after claiming the government would not let it work unimpeded.

● The UK's Ockenden Venture is setting up a scheme to market handicrafts produced by about 3,000 Afghan refugees in the Peshawar and Mardan district of Pakistan. The charity will advise on the quality of the goods and find sales outlets in Pakistan and West Europe.

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AFGHANISTAN

POLITBURO'S RAFI OPENS DOMESTIC AIR TERMINAL

LD060117 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Excerpts] The domestic terminal of Kabul International Airport became operational and was opened today by Brig Gen Mohannad Rafi, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in DRA.

The domestic terminal, which is part of the expansion project of Kabul International Airport, was built under joint DRA-USSR Cooperation.

The BIA reported that prior to the opening of this facility, Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi addressed a gathering in front of the terminal of the construction workers and Kabul Airport personnel. He regarded the completion and commissioning of the terminal as an important event in aviation affairs and said, in our country, where, due to geographical features, the transportation of commodities by land is not free of difficulties, air transport acquires particular importance. For this reason the progress of air transport is under the attention of the party and government. Today the great USSR, the earnest friend of the people of Afghanistan, who spares no assistance to our people and revolution in other socioeconomic sectors, has and will continue to assist us in the civil aviation sector and the active role of this friendly country in the expansion program of Kabul International Airport is an outstanding example of this.

One of the officials told our reporter, the expansion project of Kabul International Airport, begun in March 1983 and completed in March 1984, consists of 36 construction units and more than 70 km of underground engineering networks. This project, being built with the economic and technical assistance of the friendly and fraternal USSR, is one of the largest projects undertaken by the Afghan Construction Enterprise. It is also an outstanding example of the Afghan-Soviet friendship.

The domestic terminal which we opened today has the capacity to handle 100 passengers per hour; by its completion all difficulties in the sphere of air transport which existed earlier are removed.

The total cost of the project is 474 million afghanis, without the cost of materials. With the materials the cost is more than 1 billion afghanis.

A. Petrov, the economic adviser at the USSR Embassy in Kabul said, the successful construction of the Kabul airport facility which was commissioned before the specified time [passage indistinct]

A. Petrov said that the terminal was completed with high-quality work and has been made ready for preparation today in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Great Socialist October Revolution. He said the Kabul International Airport is the aerial gate of international friendship.

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CSO: 4600/61

AFGHANISTAN

PDPA RESOLUTION ORDERS CONSCRIPTION OF CADRE RELATIVES

LD111947 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] The PDPA Central Committee Politburo at its regular session discussed the issue of conscription and call-up and the service of sons and brothers of leadership cadres in the ranks of the DRA armed forces.

The politburo in this respect pointed out that a large number of the sons and brothers of the party and government organs' leadership cadres, as well as generals of the army, the Sarandoy [Soviet-trained militia] and the DRA Ministry of State Security, are included in the DRA armed forces for the purpose of discharging military service. This is in response to the call for the enforcement of laws and regulations by the 19th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee.

In spite of this, some leadership cadres have not shown the necessary political maturity and have not perceived properly the party's demands regarding the point that their sons and brothers, as other genuine patriots of the country, must take weapons in their hand and courageously defend the gains of the April revolution. A number of party cadres are trying by various means to exempt their sons and brothers from military service, including by sending them to other countries for study. It also happens that the sons and brothers of leadership cadres discharge the term of their duty in guards, logistical and service units and companies.

The PDPA Central Committee politburo regards such acts as unworthy of party, government or military leadership cadres and as acts which weaken their authority and at the same time weaken the people's confidence in the PDPA.

In a resolution adopted by the PDPA Central Committee Politburo in this respect a series of measures are envisaged concerning the organization of conscription and call-up and service of the sons and brothers of leadership cadres in the ranks of the DRA armed forces.

In future, those sons and brothers of the party and government leadership cadres who have not yet discharged military service will not be sent abroad for study, and those persons who are currently studying outside the country, after the completion of their study, will be assigned to the DRA armed forces in accordance with the law, without grant of deferment.

Instructions have also been issued to the respective organs to study this issue and to assign to army combat units and companies those sons and brothers of leadership cadres who are currently discharging service in guards, logistical and service units and companies, if they are capable of serving in combat units.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo has instructed the provincial and city party committees, the Kabul city party Committee, party committees and organizations of the ministries, departments, and DRA social organizations, to forge ahead with necessary work among their leadership cadres so that their sons and brothers discharge their sacred and patriotic duty as other noble and courageous Afghans, so that in accordance with the DRA laws they are admitted definitely and without exception in the armed forces, and most of all in combat units and companies.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo has instructed the secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee to undertake the responsibility for serious and constant control regarding the implementation of this resolution.

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CSO: 4600/61

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

SOVIET HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AID--Kabul, 12 Oct, BAKHTAR--Economic cooperations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR is increasing by every passing day. One of the examples of the selfless assistance of the USSR is the house construction complex of Kabul city, which from the economic view point, enjoys vital significance for the people of Afghanistan. The house construction complex, founded in 1962, had the nature of truthful assistance to the people of Afghanistan from the very beginning. The production capacity of the house construction project of Kabul city, which was a gratis aid of the Soviet Union to the people of Afghanistan, has increased with its ever-increasing activity in the construction of dwelling apartments, schools and public institutions. The conclusion of the new protocol of technical cooperations between the DRA and the USSR for the expansion of the activities of the complex has increased the annual capacity of the complex to over 150,000 dwelling apartments. Over 6,600 apartments, constructed by the project, are being used by the people of Afghanistan. The project, which is one among tens of economic projects of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, is not only eliminating the homelessness problem of the people, but also ensures the modern hygienic life and other social aspects for the people. The economic cooperations of the USSR, being salient in all fields of the life of the people of Afghanistan, is a manifestation of brotherhood and friendship of the DRA and the USSR. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0450 GMT 13 Oct 86 LD] /12624

GOODS AGREEMENT WITH USSR--An agreement on the delivery of goods and materials needed by for geological survey in oil and gas in the north was concluded between the DRA and the USSR. An agreement for a total value of R33,006,427, which equals to 2,310 billion afghani to be utilized for the dleivery of material and equipment needed for the geological survey of the oil and gas industry in the north of the country, was signed between the Ministry of Mines and Industries and the Tekhnoeksport of the Soviet Union. The agreement was signed, for the Ministry of Mines and Industries, by Najibollah Masir, the minister of mines and industries and, from the Soviet side, by Petrov, economic counsellor of the Soviet embassy in Kabul and exchanged documents. Under the agreement, the Soviet side will deliver the goods and equipment to the DRA within a period of 3 years from the beginning of 1987. The supplement will be financed from the agreement of dated 27 Aug, 1985 of the Afghan-Soviet economic and technical cooperation. [Excerpts] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Oct 86 LD] /12624

GAS CYLINDER PROJECT--Kabul, 4 Nov (BAKHTAR)--The project of the Petroleum Department of the Ministry of Commerce for filling and distribution of liquified petroleum gas cylinders under the Soviet Union's economic and technical cooperation, was commissioned here today. The project costing about 200 million afghanis consists of machinery and equipment for filling and weighing of gas cylinders, apparatus for offloading the gas and administration office equipped with fire fighting equipment and other facilities. The liquid gas cylinders were earlier filled abroad [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 5 Nov 86 LD] /12624

COOPERATION WITH USSR--Kabul, 12 Nov (BAKHTAR)--According to an agreement signed between the Soviet Union and the DRA, the Soviet Union will send specialists and train the Afghan cadres to improve the working of the Cartography and Geodesy Department. The Afghan-Soviet cooperation in this field has been expanding since the last 10 years. The general Department of Cartography and Geodesy which functions under the Council of Ministers of the DRA, is of special importance for the growth and development of various sectors of the national economy of the country. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 11 Nov 86 LD] /12624

MUJAHIDIN KILL, INJURE 120 SOLDIERS--According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin carried out ambushes at Takhar, Balkh and Qonduz Provinces early this month and either killed or injured more than 120 Soviet-Kabul soldiers. They also damaged two helicopter gunships during these ambushes. As a retaliatory step, the Soviet-Kabul aircraft bombarded, the areas, killing several citizens. According to another report, the mujahidin forced a Soviet-Kabul convoy to retreat. The convoy was proceeding to (Jazi) and Chamkani posts with supplies. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Oct 86 BK] /12624

MUJAHIDIN KILL 93, WOUND 25--Reports from Afghanistan say that the situation in and around Herat is still tense. Many shops are closed and many people have left the city. A large number of troops and militiamen have been deployed there to deal with mujahidin activities. The mujahidin are also reported to have attacked the Soviet-Kabul military posts at Khargah and Shindand, killing 93 soldiers and wounding 25 others. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Oct 86 BK] /12624

6,000 REFUGEES ENTER IRAN--Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., 15 Oct (IRNA)--Some 6,000 Afghan refugees arrived in Iran over the past few days after a two month trek through arduous mountain path, reliable sources said here Wednesday. The sources said the refugees include 1,213 families mainly women, children, and old men who had left their homeland because their water wells had been deliberately dried up by communist forces. They also suffered from a shortage of food. The refugees had lost their houses during brutal bombardment of Soviet forces in northern Afghanistan. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 15 Oct 86 LD] /12624

CSO: 4600/61

BANGLADESH

OPPOSITION DISCUSSES ATTENDANCE IN PARLIAMENT

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 Oct 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The leaders of the Eight-Party Alliance yesterday took up the issue of joining the forthcoming Parliament session to chart out their next course of action.

Presided over by Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, the meeting, held at the AL central office, lasted about two and half an hour, beginning at 6 pm. It was adjourned till 10 a.m. Tuesday to resume at NAP (U) central office.

The discussions centred round the Parliament's second session on November 10.

Among others, Awami League leaders Abdul Mannan, Abdus Samad, Communist Party leader Mohammad Farhad, NAP(U) General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya, Workers Party (Nazrul) leader Nazrul Islam, Sammzabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua participated in discussions.

NAP (M), Baksal and JSD (S) leaders did not attend the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Sheikh Hasina told The New Nation that she was ready to join the second session of parliament whose first session was boycotted by the 99 members belonging to the alliance.

She, however, parried questions whether she would be inside the house or stay outside when the indemnity bill comes before the parliament for ratification.

"It is not my headache," she said when asked about the indemnity bill. "That is a problem of Ershad Saheb," she said.

Asked whether she would be able to muster support from one hundred eleven MPs including herself to block the passage of the bill, Sheikh Hasina said that they were examining various ways and means to check it.

Earlier, in the morning, her party's working committee resumed its session at the Dhanmondi residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

A resolution adopted by the working committee declared that the "Awami League was determined to resist the process of passing the indemnity bill. In this connection, it urged different opposition and independent M.P.s and those who believe in "politics of people as against politics of killing and conspiracies", to abstain from endorsement of President Ershad's four and half-a-year rule.

Referring to the swearing-in of President H. M. Ershad on Thursday, another resolution said that was "illegal" as he had taken oath under relevant chapter of the constitution when he had not revived the constitution in its totality.

After the AL working committee ended its meeting, the eight-party leaders picked up the parliament issue. CPB leader Mohammad Farhad, expressed the view that alliance MP's should attend the parliament session to oppose the indemnity bill. He was backed by NAP (U) and other leftist allies. Awami league leader Abdul Mannan who represents the lobby inside the party to boycott the parliament session altogether, called for evolving ways and means of how to effectively block the passage of the bill, meeting sources said.

The leaders decided to postpone their meetings till October 28. They also decided to explore the possibilities of contacting other opposition members in a bid to take a common stand against the indemnity bill, the sources added.

INDIA

ANALYST ON POSSIBLE VISIT OF U.S. VICE PRESIDENT

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Oct 86 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26.

There is some talk of a possible visit to India early next year by the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. George Bush, which if it goes well can pave the way for a trip later on by the President, Mr. Reagan, himself before the completion of his second term.

The chief of the Vice-President's staff has been on a visit to Delhi to take a close look at the Indian political scene and advise Mr. Bush accordingly in the context of the on-going contacts at different levels to improve Indo-American relations.

Excellent rapport: The U.S. Vice-President, who is an aspirant for the Republican party nomination to contest the 1988 Presidential election, has visited India before and left an excellent impression as a humane and liberal American statesman. He had established an excellent personal rapport first with Indira Gandhi and later on with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi during their visits to Washington.

Mr. Bush played a key role behind the scenes in urging Mr. Reagan and his advisers to make a sustained effort to establish better understanding with India even if the two countries continued to differ on some important international issues. The recent visit of the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Casper Weinberger, came as a culmination of the moves initiated during Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's trip to Washington.

If the present talks for technology transfer lead to a mutually acceptable relationship in the economic and defence spheres, it would enable Mr. Bush and others in the Reagan Administration to carry forward this process despite the continuing differences over the U.S. policy of arming Pakistan.

At one stage Mr. Reagan himself was contemplating a brief trip to India in the course of a quick swing through Asia stopping over in several friendly countries in the region. But the idea was deferred indefinitely after he was taken ill in mid-1985. Then it was stated that the President would reconsider his Asian travel plans a year later after he had gone through a thorough medical check-up.

A visit by Mr. Bush will certainly help to set the right tone for Mr. Reagan's trip to the sub-con-

tinent. It will also help Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to establish a good personal relationship with a U.S. leader who might be the next President.

But much would depend on how best India is going to perform the balancing act of establishing equally beneficial relations with the two superpowers, without detriment to its basic national interests. The U.S. has now reconciled itself to the reality of a close Indo-Soviet relationship, which is no longer regarded as an impediment to better understanding with Washington.

It is for the Indian leadership to display the necessary skill and imagination in pursuing this two-track policy with sophistication and conviction. It is not enough to exchange high-level visits and engage in the effusive inanities of shared values, without a clear concept of the kind of relationship sought by both sides.

INDIA

GOVERNMENT 'APPALLED' BY U.S. TREATMENT OF PAN AM HIJACK

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Oct 86 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Excerpt]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26.

The Arab countries are reported to be urging the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, to take the initiative in raising the Syrian question before the U.N. Security Council, or even calling an emergency meeting of the Coordination Bureau of NAM, to forewarn the world community about a possible Israeli attack on Syria in the wake of the break of diplomatic relations by Britain.

Though India is not directly involved in these moves, the Arab countries expect the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to go along with any such move by Mr. Mugabe to forestall such a threat to Syria by cautioning the western powers against it.

Despite the fact that the Arab countries are badly riven by internal dissensions, they all seem to be united in their stand against a possible attack by Israel on Syria under the pretext of fighting terrorism. The Soviet Union, which has close links with Syria, is not likely to remain an idle spectator if Israel resorts to any rash action.

Punitive steps: The British decision to break off diplomatic relations with Syria does not in itself constitute a threat to it. But the talk of additional steps by Britain and other Western powers with an implied warning of some sort of punitive action has given rise to the fear that Israel might feel emboldened to attack Syria by taking advantage of this situation.

U.S. reluctance: The Government of India feels aggrieved that the Western powers, notably the U.S., continue to adopt double standards in dealing with the menace of international terrorism. While it has no intention of minimising in any way the gravity of the abortive plot to

blow up the Israeli jetliner by planting a bomb on the aircraft at the London airport by a Jordanian on April 17 last, it has been appalled by the reluctance of the U.S. and other powers to exert any pressure on Pakistan to come out with the details of the recent hijack episode in Karachi in which so many innocent lives were lost.

It is now more than seven weeks since this shocking event had taken place, but so far Pakistan has not given India any information about the identity of these terrorists or the outcome of its investigations. The Indian plea for a fuller enquiry has been ignored and not a single power has supported it.

/9274
CSO: 4600/1160

INDIA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY DENIES PAKISTAN ALLEGATIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Oct 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 23.

INDIA today reminded Pakistan of its earlier suggestion that the two countries should agree not to give bases or military facilities to third countries.

This was to ensure durable peace and friendly and harmonious bilateral relations.

India also denied the "baseless" allegation made by a Pakistan foreign office spokesman that the Soviet Union enjoyed "almost permanent facilities" at the Visakhapatnam naval base.

The statement made by a spokesman of the Indian external affairs ministry came in the wake of reports on the U.S. defence secretary, Mr. Caspar Weinberger's saying in Islamabad that an airborne early warning system (AWAC), manned by an American crew, might be given to Pakistan. This was subsequently denied by Pakistan.

The Indian spokesman said no naval ship from any country had visited Visakhapatnam for the last several years. This year, 13 warships belonging to several countries had visited other Indian ports and only one of these was from the Soviet Union.

In 1985, 14 such vessels had called on other Indian ports and of them two belonged to the Soviet Union and one to the U.S. The rest included those from Iran, Singapore, Sweden, Indonesia, Australia and Malaysia.

The spokesman recalled that in its draft for a treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation, India had suggested to Pakistan that neither country should

provide base facilities to any other country.

"This continues to be our position and subsequent developments have only confirmed the correctness of our stand." The spokesman was apparently referring to the visit of the U.S. aircraft carrier, "Enterprise," to Karachi in March last year, besides other U.S. warships.

He said, "Pakistan, however, informed us that they do not want to foreclose their options on the question of providing military bases and facilities to third countries."

/9274
CSO: 4600/1169

INDIA

AZAD KASHMIR DELEGATES FORBIDDEN AT SAARC MEETING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Nov 86 p 9

[Text]

BANGALORE, October 31
(PTI).

INDIA will not allow any "Azad Kashmir" representatives to be brought by Pakistan to the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) summit to be held here from November 10.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Natwar Singh made this clear at a press conference here.

"SAARC is being held in India and they require visas to come here which India is not likely to give", he said.

Mr. Natwar Singh, who is here to supervise arrangements for the summit, expressed happiness over the progress and was confident that everything would be ready before the conference.

He said no bilateral issues would be discussed at the summit and emphasis would be on non-political matters.

Agreement would be reached on non-controversial areas like meteorology, flood control, health and family welfare, postal system and other allied issues, he said.

Mr. Natwar Singh said decisions would be taken at the summit to establish a secretariat at Kathmandu and institutionalise the four year old SAARC.

Referring to the communication breakdown due to telecommunication engineers' strike, Mr. Natwar Singh said the government was making every

effort to solve the problem. "Even if the strike continues, we will ensure that there is no disruption in the telecommunication network", he said.

When a correspondent asked how the government could do this if the strike continued, Mr. Natwar Singh shot back "wait and see".

He said officials were working on various documents to be adopted by the SAARC and expressed confidence that the "SAARC would develop into a good force" like the European Economic Community (EEC).

Mr. Natwar Singh said that he had talks with the Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde at New Delhi yesterday and would continue the dialogue tonight on the SAARC arrangements.

Referring to criticisms on the huge expenditure for the SAARC meet, he said they were bound to be there. But "if they are justified we will look into them".

He said the summit would not only put Bangalore on the international map but also create certain permanent assets. In this context, he cited the criticism against the facelift given to Goa before the CHOGM in 1983, but now Goa had become an international tourist attraction earning considerable foreign exchange.

/9274
CSO: 4600/1179

INDIA

OFFICIAL ASSURED PRC WANTS FURTHER 'FRIENDLY' BORDER TALKS

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Oct 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 27.

Chinese leaders have told Mr. Chitta Basu, M.P., general secretary of the All-India Forward Bloc, that the border dispute with India can be 'settled reasonably through friendly consultations, mutual understanding and mutual accommodation'.

On his return here from a two-week visit to China Mr. Basu told newsmen today that the Chinese leaders had admitted the existence of disputes which needed speedy and satisfactory solution in the interest of both countries.

'If any minor problem arises, it must be solved 'through internal consultations', and it should not be blown up', said the Chinese leaders.

Mr. Basu met Mr. Zhang Zhixing, Vice-President, and Mr. He Xichunan, Secretary General, Chinese Association for International Understanding, and several other communist party leaders.

The Chinese leaders conceded that even after seven rounds of talks at the level of officials, the border dispute had not been resolved but felt that the possibility of a solution had improved.

Mr. Basu said he would meet the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, and apprise them of his impressions of the visit to China. —

/9274
CSO: 4600/1172

INDIA

PROGRAM TO TIGHTEN BORDER SECURITY DETAILED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Nov 86 p 5

[Text]

Home Minister Buta Singh told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that the Indian Government had on nine occasions brought "solid" evidence about infiltration of trained extremists from Pakistan into India. But their only stock reply had been: "We do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of India".

Between January and August 1986, he said 2774 infiltrators had been apprehended by the Border Security and other forces on Indo-Pakistan border, though the total number of infiltrators apprehended so far came around to 8,000.

In addition to normal infiltration, he informed the House that it had been found that Pakistan had sent trained extremists across the border to destabilise the country, he added.

The Government had drawn up a five-year perspective programme for tightening security arrangements all along the western sector bordering Pakistan and which had come into effect from January last, he said.

Mr Buta Singh faced a volley of questions on the issue from almost all quarters of the House. In reply to a question, the Home Minister said on an experimental basis identity cards

had been issued in certain regions of Rajasthan.

He told the House that if the experiment proved success, it would be extended to Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Buta Singh said the five-year programme includes deployment of greater number of border security personnel, reducing the distance between the observation posts, construction of additional observation posts, effective surveillance, addition vehicles to the BSF for increasing mobility and more sophisticated weapons to meet the increasing challenges.

Seven of the terrorists arrested in the last three months have admitted that they were trained in Pakistan in use of arms, sabotage techniques and use of explosives, he said.

During interrogation the terrorists disclosed they were taken to various safe houses and jailed and given training in the motivation for creation of "Khalistan".

Mr Singh said four unidentified intruders were killed in return fire by a naka party of the BSF in the Khemkaran sector of Amritsar district in October this year while they were

trying to enter India from Pakistan. In another incident, another intruder was shot dead but others managed to escape.

Replying to Jaswant Singh (BJP) the Home Minister said infiltration from Pakistan due to socio-economic and historical reasons had "serious implications" on our population living along the border. Our efforts had been to push them back as soon as they are detected.

Mr A G Kulkarni (Congress-S) was of the opinion that "weak administration" in the bordering states, specially in Punjab was responsible for the increased number of infiltrators. He wanted the Government not to let go this opportunity in declaring the security belt.

To this, the Home Minister's reply was that he had "serious discussions" with the Chief Ministers of the concerned states. The process was still on. However, if necessary he would inform the House.

Mr Satpal Mallik (Cong) alleged that some political parties, specially in Punjab, were making political capital out of the encounters between the infiltrators and the security personnel.

/9274
CSO: 4600/1187

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT ON VISIT OF SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION

Need To Diversify Trade

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 28 Oct 86 p 6

[Text]

New Delhi, Oct 27 (PTI): Diversification of trade is necessary if Indo-Soviet trade and economic relations are to be further strengthened.

This was jointly stated by the deputy chairman of the Gosplan, Mr V P Lakhtin, who has come to India at the head of a Russian trade delegation, and the president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), Mr B R Sule, during a recent meeting here.

The need for diversification has arisen not only because of imbalance in two-way trade under rupee-payment arrangements, but also in view of the changes—technological and structural—that have taken

place in the two economies.

Mr Lakhtin suggested that Assocham should help in identifying new items, which could be imported from the Soviet Union to narrow down the imbalance between Soviet exports to India and its imports from here.

He said that in the discussions, which his delegation had with the government of India, various chemical items had already been identified for import by India from the Soviet Union.

The alternate president of Assocham, Mr M K Kumar, suggested that possibilities could be explored for the Soviet Union supplying to India on a turnkey basis, with appropriate credit

packages, equipment for the setting up 30 to 200 MW coal-based thermal power projects. Another area, which could be explored, he suggested, is project exports to third countries to which equipment could be supplied by the Soviet Union and engineering services by India.

Mr Lakhtin today also met the chairman of the Railway Board, Mr Prakash Narain. At the meeting it was decided that exchange of railway technology developed in either country could lead to mutual benefit. A high level Soviet railway delegation would visit India in the second week of November to discuss specific areas of cooperation, including joint production ventures.

Railway Modernization Assistance

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Oct 86 p 11

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 27.

A Soviet delegation led by Mr. E. P. O. Bavrin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Mr. V. P. Lakhtin, Deputy chairman of the Soviet State planning body, Gosplan, today met the Indian railway officials to explore the possibilities of cooperation between the Indian and the Soviet railway systems.

The Soviet team, part of a trade delegation visiting India, had a meeting with the Chairman of the Railway Board, Mr. Prakash Narain and senior board officials, dealing with the planning, the electrical and mechanical systems and finance.

Sources said that the Soviet side expressed a desire to initiate cooperation with the Indian railways in a range of areas relating to modernisation programmes and investment in capital goods machinery like track-laying equipment. It said that in the event of large-scale cooperation being decided upon, they would try to coordinate it with their own five-year plans.

The Indian side told their Soviet counterparts that their priorities were for the import of technology leading to possible licenced production arrangements rather than equipment import. They also expressed interest in Soviet experiments with 6,000 hp three-phase AC locomotives —

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CSO: 4600/1180

INDIA

TIWARI, KATUSHEV DISCUSS INDO-SOVIET COOPERATION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Oct 86 p 9

[Text]

India and the Soviet Union on Thursday discussed possibilities of stepping up economic, technical and commercial cooperation between the two nations when visiting USSR deputy chairman of the state committee for foreign economic relations K F Katushev, called on External Affairs Minister N D Tiwari.

According to the spokesman of the external affairs ministry, the discussions covered further Indo-Soviet cooperation in steel, coal, power and petroleum sectors.

The meeting was marked by trust, warmth and cordiality that characterise Indo-Soviet relations, the spokesman said. Present at the meeting were Mr Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, and Mr A P Venkateswaran, foreign secretary.

Both sides, the spokesman said, emphasised the importance they attached to the forthcoming visit to India of Soviet leader M Gorbachyov next month end.

Mr K F Katushev met Mr N D

Tiwari and had "fruitful discussions" on the possibilities of further expanding cooperation between the two countries in economic and technical fields.

During the meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of "warmth and cordiality, characteristic of Indo-Soviet relations", they also discussed the arrangements for the forthcoming visit of Soviet communist party chief Gorbachyov to India.

They felt that the visit would give new impetus to the Indo-USSR relations.

Khalgaon super thermal power project of 340 MW in Bihar is being implemented with the Soviet assistance. The detailed project report from the Soviet side is likely to be available by the end of the year. The first unit of the project is expected to be commissioned by 1990-91.

Energy Minister Vasant Sathe and Mr Katushev agreed that the composite Tehri project of 2400 MW in Uttar Pradesh could be taken up with the Soviet assistance.

In the coal sector, Mr Sathe said that a number of projects would be implemented with the Soviet cooperation. Among them are Mukunda opencast mine which will have a 12 million tonnes capacity, Nighaki opencast mine of 14 million tonnes capacity, Khadia and Moher opencast mines with 10 million tonnes capacity each and the modernisation of Pathardi coal washery.

The visiting Soviet minister expressed the hope that cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector would be further strengthened to their mutual benefit.

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CSO: 4600/1181

INDIA

ANALYST ON POSITION ON ASIAN-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Nov 86 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 2.

The reason for India's reluctance to go beyond welcoming in principle the proposal of the Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, for an Asian-Pacific security pact is the implication in his reference to the parallel of the Helsinki accords, which were primarily based on an East-West understanding to freeze the present frontiers in Europe.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union, took as long as 10 years to arrive at a mutually acceptable basis for convening the Helsinki conference on European security.

The Soviet Government is not trying to hustle India into identifying itself totally with Moscow's initiative for a similar Asian-Pacific security conference, but it is urging strongly that this country should support the move so that an appropriate mention can be made in the proposed Indo-Soviet joint declaration to be issued at the conclusion of Mr. Gorbachev's visit to Delhi at the end of this month. A lot of discussion has been taking place behind the scenes to evolve a formulation acceptable to both sides.

Broad concept: The Soviet leaders have assured India that the Gorbachev plan is only a broad concept that is quite flexible and open to more precise interpretation after informal exchanges with various countries which will be invited to participate in this conference, if and when it takes place. The idea of freezing the present Asian frontiers, which has an ugly connotation for India in terms of its border dispute with China, following the Helsinki parallel, will not be acceptable to many Asian countries including China and Japan which have boundary conflicts with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Gorbachev is expected to make a detailed mention of his call for an Asian-Pacific conference, with both Soviet and American participation, in his address to members of the Indian Parliament. During the preparatory talks on his visit, it has also been indicated that Mr. Gorbachev will raise this issue during his talks with the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and press for Indian support to this proposition.

Second thoughts: The Soviet leader's earlier plans to follow up his Indian visit this month with a trip to Japan in January to keep up the momentum of his Asian-Pacific security plan have suffered a setback in the sense that Moscow itself is reported to be having some second thoughts on the timing of it.

Nakasone's remarks: The Soviet Union has taken strong objection to the remarks of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, during his visit to Seoul last month, when he referred to the Japanese demand for the return of the four islands taken over by Moscow at the end of the second world war. There is no official text of what exactly Mr. Nakasone said on the subject, but Moscow appears to have taken serious note of it for whatever reason.

It has been indicated by the Soviet Government that the return of these islands cannot be a pre-condition for improvement of relations with Japan, although at one stage some diplomatic hints were given through third countries that Moscow would not be averse to giving up at least two of these four islands as a friendly gesture to Japan.

/12379

CSO: 4600/1195

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS INDO-TURKISH MOVES FOR BETTER RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Oct 86 p 7

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 26.

The Governments of India and Turkey are exploring the possibilities of closer political and economic relations through increased cooperation in several spheres that would be mutually beneficial in bilateral and regional contexts.

As a follow-up of the very successful visit that the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Turgut Ozal, paid to India early this year, a two-member team of Indian officials has been sent to Ankara for talks with their counterparts on various aspects of Indo-Turkish relations.

The two officials are Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, an Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's secretariat dealing with economic affairs, and Mr. J. Daulat Singh, a Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry in charge of the West European division.

As a former World Bank consultant, Mr. Ahluwalia had visited Turkey on several occasions to report on its economic potential and requirements while Mr. Daulat Singh has been closely associated with the current Indo-Turkish moves for better bilateral relations.

Turkish Minister coming: The Turkish Minister for Economic Cooperation, Mr. Adnan Kahveci, will be visiting India shortly for carrying forward this dialogue both at the ministerial level and with the commercial and industrial

organisations concerned. This would be followed by a return visit by an Indian Minister to keep up the continuity of these exchanges.

The Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Export Promotion Council have sent delegations to Turkey and the FICCI too is planning to send a representative group of industrialists to discuss the prospects for increased trade and industrial collaboration. The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce wants to participate in these bilateral exchanges by identifying suitable areas for this cooperation.

A 13-member delegation of Indian glass industry from Bombay will be going to Turkey shortly to negotiate technical cooperation agreements for production of high grade crystal ware. From the days of the Ottoman empire, Turkey has built up a high reputation for manufacturing superior varieties of cut glass which have a worldwide market.

Ties with Pakistan: Though Turkey continues to maintain a close political relationship with Pakistan, the present government headed by Mr. Ozal has been making a conscious effort to develop parallel links with India in mutual interest. As a secular State, it has not allowed itself to be caught in the clasptrap of Islamic politics whatever its regional considerations in cultivating Pakistan.

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CSO: 4600/1170

INDIA

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MEETS WITH FRG COUNTERPART

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Nov 86 p 9

[Text]

BONN, November 1 (UNI): The external affairs minister Mr. N.D. Tiwari, and his West German counterpart, Mr. Hans Dietrich Genscher, have agreed to further intensify the dialogue between the two countries.

The two ministers yesterday discussed bilateral matters including India's huge trade deficit with this country, further expansion of economic cooperation and the work on an extradition treaty as well as international issues of mutual interest.

Mr. Genscher shared India's concern about its growing deficit in bilateral trade and said that the Indo-German joint economic commission was working on various possibilities to reduce it.

At the initiative of the Bonn government, a leather delegation will be visiting India shortly to examine the possibilities for improving the production of leather goods so that they could be exported to this highly competitive market.

On the proposed accreditation trea-

ty, it was pointed out at the meeting that the two sides have made some progress and work was still continuing.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on East-West relations after Reykjavik summit and Mr. Genscher said it was a good sign that the super powers were continuing their discussions. He reiterated Bonn government's view that Reykjavik was an important step forward in super power dialogue for an arms limitation accord.

Mr. Genscher said his government welcomed the "zero option" on medium-range missiles put forward recently by the United States and noted that this was something originally put forward by the Germans.

The meeting between Mr. Tiwari and Mr. Genscher took place immediately after the West German foreign minister held discussions with a delegation of foreign ministers from nonaligned countries including Mr. Tiwari. The external affairs minister left here last evening for Frankfurt on his way to Tokyo.

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C80: 4600/1183

INDIA

REPORT ON MEETING OF INDO-SPANISH JOINT COMMITTEE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Nov 86 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, November 2

(PTI:

INDIA and Spain have identified areas of bilateral co-operation in economic and commercial relations, particularly for increasing two-way trade.

The Indo-Spanish joint committee which met in Madrid from October 29 to 31 analysed bilateral trade and industrial co-operation. It also examined the prospects of further intensifying and enlarging the commercial and economic relations between the two countries.

At the concluding session, a protocol was signed by Mr. R. D. Dayal, leader of the Indian delegation, and Mr. Apolonio Ruiz Nigro, director general in the ministry of economy and finance, according to an official statement issued here today.

EXPLOITING SEA

It was decided at the meeting that a Spanish fisheries business delegation would visit India. The Spanish industry could participate in Indian schemes for exploiting deep-sea fishing resources as well as in technology for harvesting, processing and marketing of deep-sea fishing products.

Based on the global import of Spain, it was analysed that there would be

scope for export of tea, coffee, tobacco, shellac, cotton and fabricated mica from India.

In order to foster trade and technical co-operation especially in engineering and the electronic sector, specialised Spanish business delegations would visit India for product adaptation and compliance of technical specifications of Indian products.

In the area of chemicals and petrochemicals, India's well diversified chemical and petro-chemical industries offer vast scope of exports of pesticides, organic and inorganic chemicals, petro-chemicals, bulk drugs and formulations, dyes and dyestuff intermediates, paint and rubber products. By maintaining close contact in these areas the two countries could boost the two-way trade and technical co-operation. India is also seeking basic technologies for some of the bulk drugs and in respect of anticipated imports of petro-chemicals.

In the area of technical and industrial co-operation, the joint committee noted that there was scope for intensifying co-operation in certain important sectors like the rejuvenation of citrus orchards for improving productivity and growing special varieties immune to pest diseases.

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CSO: 4600/1199

INDIA

CONGRESS-I SEEKS TIES WITH FOREIGN POLITICAL PARTIES

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Oct 86 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 27.

As a ruling party the Congress (I) is trying to establish what is called party-to-party relationship with several countries to provide additional channels of contact and communication with their leaderships to supplement the governmental efforts in the conduct of India's foreign relations.

On the face of it, this relationship is intended to promote goodwill by establishing a bilateral political framework for periodic consultations and exchange of fraternal delegations with countries considered important from the point of view of India's national interests.

Duplication: But since in practice it would amount to duplicating the country's diplomatic initiatives leading to some avoidable confusion at times, the External Affairs Ministry has been opposing this move for party-to-party relations. The final decision is yet to be taken by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in his dual capacity as Congress (I) President and Prime Minister whether or not to proceed with this experiment.

As head of the Congress (I)'s foreign affairs department, the former Foreign Secretary, Mr. Romesh Bhandari, has paid a visit to Moscow for talks with the Soviet party leaders on what have been described as matters of mutual interest. He is planning to pay similar trips to a number of other countries in pursuit of this policy, if the party president authorises it.

In the case of communist countries, or those with authoritarian regimes, it is relatively easy to establish such relationship since there are only single ruling parties there. But a different policy will have to be pursued regarding other countries like the western democracies that have two or more national parties that can legitimately claim to be serious contenders to power as in the U.S., Britain, West Germany and France.

If the intention is to have a serious dialogue relationship with them, it would be difficult to conduct it with two or three parties in each one of these countries, unless this is going to be limited to exchange of goodwill visits on important occasions.

There is also a risk in attempting to forge closer links with any of these parties, like the Labour Party in Britain, on the assumption that it might win the next elections, since one cannot rule out the possibility of the Tories securing a mandate for the third time in succession.

Ministry's view: The External Affairs Ministry's view is that this party-to-party relationship could be limited to extending invitations to friendly countries to send fraternal delegations as was done on the occasion of the Congress centenary celebrations, when even China sent a senior party leader to represent it. Any attempt to enlarge the scope of this political relationship by acceding a formal status to it would inevitably lead, in its opinion, to a duplication of effort with all the hazards of cross-purpose under the Indian conditions.

There is already a surfeit of friendship societies operating at different levels with both Congress (I) and opposition leaders lending their names to them. Some of these societies have been functioning as political lobbies and pressure groups espousing the causes of different countries much to the embarrassment of the Government.

Contrary to traditions: Those who are opposed to the proposed move for party-to-party relationship maintain that it would be contrary to the traditions of the Indian democracy to involve the ruling party functionaries who are not part of the government to dabble in foreign policy matters even with the best of intentions. If it is not possible to improve relations with any country through governmental efforts, so the argument runs, it is equally impossible to do so at a party-to-party level through unofficial contacts.

The best way of contributing to the success of the country's foreign policy objectives in a democracy like India is for the party leadership to influence the thinking of the government through internal debate, without attempting to duplicate the effort. And it is in this context that the Prime Minister himself seems to be having second thoughts on the wisdom of authorising the Congress (I) to run a parallel foreign policy establishment.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1172

INDIA

GANDHI LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR NAVAL BASE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Oct 86 p 1

[Text]

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, today rejected the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) demand for a division of West Bengal.

Laying the foundation stone for the biggest and most sophisticated naval base in South Asia at the Binaga Bay near here, Mr. Gandhi asserted: "We have made it clear that we can never support terrorists nor condone violence. No new territory will be carved out of West Bengal," he declared.

Mr. Gandhi charged that both the West Bengal government and the GNLF had resorted to violence and both were at fault. "If violence is resorted to the nation will come weak."

Mr. Gandhi said: "If we have to remain independent, we must look to the south and the Indian Ocean for safety." He expressed confidence that the Indian Navy would succeed in the task of keeping the Indian Ocean safe.

BIGGEST BASE

He said among the coastal states, Karnataka had taken the last place with regard to a naval presence. However, it was now being rewarded with the biggest base.

Mr. Gandhi said the country's navy should be strengthened in view of the piling up of arms by some neighbours. On the pretext of the Afghanistan issue, Pakistan was being armed heavily and even the navy was made strong.

The Indian Navy would in future acquire high-technology weaponry and facilities and the Karwar naval base was a step in this direction.

The Prime Minister said India had always stressed that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace without the presence of outside nations.

This issue was raised at the United Nations 15 years ago, but no progress

had been achieved so far. Some neighbouring countries had favoured this proposal and some had not.

Assuring the people of the region that all benefits would be extended to them, he said they would initially face some hardships. However, his government would ensure that these were kept at the minimum.

Mr. Gandhi said the base, which was likely to cost over Rs. 1,760 crores during the seventh and eighth plan periods, was being set up since the existing three bases at Bombay, Cochin and Vishakapatnam, had reached 'saturation points'.

The human resource development ministry would take up special programmes for the welfare of fishermen and the base would provide better amenities such as health and education and create employment opportunities for local people, he said.

Mr. Gandhi said people displaced by the proposed base would receive suitable compensation.

In his address, the Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, said the proposed naval base was an "invaluable gift" to Karnataka. The nuclear power plant proposed to be set up at Kaiga in the Uttar Kannada district would be another gift, he added.

Mr. Hegde said about 3,000 families would be displaced by the base and appealed to Mr. Gandhi to sanction adequate compensation for the affected.

The chief of naval staff, Adm. R. N. Tahiliani, said ships, submarines and aircraft would operate from the base, to be called "INS Sea Bird."

A survey had shown that the site was the best for a base in the whole of the west coast, he said.

The Prime Minister indicated that this coastal town would soon be placed on the country's rail map.

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CSO: 4600/1192

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS SUNDAY TIMES INTERVIEW WITH GANDHI

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 27 Oct 86 p 4

[Text]

London, Oct. 26 (PTI): The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, seems determined to usher India into the next century as a nation well equipped in the use of latest technologies like any other advanced nation.

Talking to *Sunday Times* Mr Gandhi spoke of India's achievements in biotechnology, space research and use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. He expressed his determination to introduce the green revolution in the backward and less fertile areas of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.

The newspaper said the Indian Prime Minister faced formidable political and economic problems after two years in power. It added that two major problems were the tight security which

was isolating him from his party and the people, and his free market economic policies, which have become a subject of fierce debate.

Mr Gandhi, referring to his new economic policies, said: "We have made some dramatic changes and they are working."

Mr Gandhi wanted to use the latest technology to take drinking water to atleast half of the 700,000 villages of India that do not have this facility. He also felt satellites should be used more often to predict monsoon patterns.

He said he was not satisfied with India's status as the most developed developing country (the nation has the 10th biggest pool of technical and scientific manpower in the world). The Prime Minister also claimed that

he had revitalised the Indian bureaucracy.

He said the old economic model had outlived its usefulness adding that he was building a new one. He did not consider big business a necessary-evil.

"There is already much resentment inside the party at Rajiv's brisk, managerial style of governing. This increases every time he brings in outsiders he considers talented enough to help run the administration," the paper said.

Quotig Mr Pranab Mukherjee, his harshest critic, the paper said, Mr Gandhi's model is "Mrs Thatcher and Mr Reagan's dependence on market forces, free enterprise, privatisation of industry. He is ditching his mother's policies."

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CSO: 4600/1161

INDIA

GANDHI SPEECH OPENS CONFERENCE ON PRODUCTIVITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Oct 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 29.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, today assailed both labour and the large industry for the industrial stagnation and warned that unless the situation was corrected urgently, the country's independence' would be imperilled.

Inaugurating a three-day national conference of "Productivity through people in the age of changing technology", he said "What we need is the will to do it."

The Prime Minister deplored the poor performance of the large industry both in terms of creating employment and exports and said the record of the small scale sector in contrast had been very good.

Stressing the need for creating and meeting the technology demand within the country, Mr. Gandhi described the Indian labour as "perhaps the most inefficient in the world".

After decades of stagnation in agriculture, the country became self-sufficient in foodgrains. In any case "we had no choice" he said adding that if self-sufficiency in foodgrains had not been achieved, "we would perhaps have lost our independence, as we perceive it." The situation was "not very different in industry today," he remarked.

The small sector had been responsible for 80 per cent of industrial employment, one-third of export and 50 per cent of value added production. On the other hand, 30 large industries had only Rs. 30 crores of export.

Cheating customers: The Prime Minister also took the big industry to task for what he called "buying cheap and selling at high price". For too long industry had operated in a protected atmosphere. He accused the industry of "cheating the customer on the one hand and the revenue collector on the other".

"This cannot continue because it is not only a question of cost of production. Every time we are inefficient, the whole country pays for it as it cuts into our developmental programmes", he said. The Government would come down heavily on industries producing substandard goods in their efforts to make a "quick buck".

No takeovers: The Prime Minister made it

clear that no sick industry would be taken over by the Government now. "We have taken a very clear decision about this." He said even the takeovers in pipeline were being gone into thoroughly.

He said taking over of sick industry, buying industrial products at a higher price in a situation of preferential treatment or poor quality of products ultimately hit the poorest at whose door "the buck stops".

Giving an example, he said, if a sick industry was taken over and huge investment made in it to create say, 1000 jobs, much more employment could be created by making a similar investment in a new unit. "Similarly, if a generating set is purchased, say from the State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals at a higher price, its effect would be felt ultimately by the customer."

The country had taken significant strides in certain space, nuclear and defence technologies but by and large industry was not able to cope with the present challenge. Stressing the need for getting over the "vicious circle of high cost economy", he expressed the hope that the objective would be attained.

Public sector units had been set up in distant areas as a deliberate policy, and hence they suffered certain handicaps.

Mr. Gandhi disapproved of the practice of industry to carry on with imported technology packages without making improvements in them. A sizeable amount of industrial technology had been developed in the country, but in "translating it into production we have failed." There was need for creating and meeting the technology demand within the country.

Describing the Indian labour as "perhaps the most inefficient in the world," he said the situation could be changed for the better with motivation, education and proper guidance. He was highly critical of the labour force in the organised sector, which he said was sometimes "very protected" and instead of helping in raising production it hindered the task.

'Bad example' from Bengal: West Bengal was an example to show how organised labour could damage industry. Because of the labour

attitude, many industries had shifted out of the State. The reality was dawning on those concerned now.

The Prime Minister questioned the system of Government organisations buying the lowest tender. This often meant quality was compromised. The situation could be salvaged, by laying down good specifications. However, he admitted that the Government had not been able to lay down good specifications in the last two years.

Mr. Gandhi called for raising the levels of knowledge in specialised areas.

High technology relevant: It was erroneous to say that high technology was not needed for India, where hundreds of millions of people were illiterate. For one thing, there were hundreds of highly literate people and for another technology such as genetic engineering and monsoon forecast were ultimately used by farmers to benefit.

The Union Industry Minister, Mr. J. Vengai Rao, in his presidential address, said India's ability to compete in world market would increasingly depend on the ability of the industrial firms to use the new generation of manufacturing technologies.

Regretting the lack of quality awareness, he said it must be adopted as a fundamental business strategy.

Mr. D. V. Kapur, Chairman of the National Productivity Council (NPC), which organised the conference, said not enough attention was paid to the significance of house-keeping and skills in achieving excellence and quality. The NPC Director-General, Mr. S. K. Suri, proposed a vote of thanks.—UNI, PTI

/9274
CSO: 4600/1174

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT PRESIDENT SINGH'S YUGOSLAV VISIT

30 Oct Banquet

Madras THE HINDU in English 31 Oct 86 p 6

[Article by K.K. Katyal]

[Text]

BELGRADE, Oct.30.

In the first formal address on the first day of his visit abroad — to the friendly Yugoslavia — the President, Mr. Zail Singh, hoped that the nuclear powers would heed the appeals for a halt to the testing and development of their weapons to be followed by a phased reduction of the existing stockpiles. India, he said, was greatly heartened by the bold initiative of the Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachev, to rid the world of nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honour by the Yugoslav President, Mr. Sinan Hasani, Mr. Zail Singh chose the threat of nuclear holocaust as his main theme. His choice could not have been more appropriate. As he noted, it was the first non-aligned summit at Belgrade 25 years ago that had called for a suspension of nuclear tests, pending a comprehensive test ban treaty. Secondly, Yugoslavia had warmly welcomed the recent initiative of the six countries, including India, for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. The endorsement of friends like Yugoslavia gave us courage and sustenance in our belief that all countries have a role to play in this elemental question of life and death, he said.

And as he put it, the threat of nuclear holocaust constituted the most urgent crisis facing mankind with the still bigger danger of its spreading to outer space.

Both Mr. Zail Singh and his hosts obviously, had in mind the failure of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, as also the fact that it came close to a breakthrough. India had taken the position — as reflected by the immediate reaction of the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi —

that all had not been lost and that something could be rebuilt on the arms control proposal. Mr. Zail Singh's simple, direct plea to the nuclear powers was in line with that approach.

India and Yugoslavia did not have any difficulty in following each other's idiom, be it in relation to nuclear threat, the relevance of the non-aligned movement, the linkage between disarmament and development, or apartheid, as was evident at the banquet and during the informal exchanges. The identity of views, it was recalled, flowed from the close ties forged by Tito and Nehru and their shared commitment to non-alignment. It was a matter of satisfaction in India, Mr. Zail Singh said, that the two countries had worked hand in hand to strengthen the non-aligned movement.

Both India and Yugoslavia were equally worried by the impact of the arms race on development. This concern was reflected by the following formulation of Mr. Zail Singh:

Escalating arms race consumes a heavy share of the global budget, especially of the industrialised States, causing structural weaknesses in their economies. Prolonged global recession, high interest rates, massive imbalances in balance of payments and unemployment are some of the ills facing even the industrialised world. The developing countries are faced with the outcome of these problems and now face the phenomenon of net financial flows to the developed world, crushing debt and repayment burden and decline in prices of commodities which they produce.

'Peace' and security in the world is indivisible. There can be no progress in the industrialised North, while the South decays. There is

great urgency, therefore, to work actively, unitedly towards the new international economic order. The developing countries must also work towards collective self-reliance by strengthening South-South cooperation in all fields'.

New dimension

Dealing with Southern Africa, Mr. Zail Singh said that the tragic loss of President Samora Machel had added a new dimension to the distressing situation. He urged the international community to stand by the side of the people of South Africa, Namibia and the Frontline States, and take all possible measures, including mandatory sanctions, to put an end to apartheid.

Mr. Zail Singh was happy that his discussions had confirmed their common approach to important international problems and mutual determination in tackling them.

Talks With Yugoslav President

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Nov 86 p 1

[Article by K.K. Katyal]

[Text]

BELGRADE, Oct. 31.

India may buy defence items from Yugoslavia, as part of a new-dimensional arrangement, currently being explored to step up trade between the two countries. The bilateral trade has just begun to pick after a steep dip.

Economic relations figured at length in the talks between the President, Mr. Zail Singh and his opposite number Mr. Sinan Hasani who, from all accounts, did not take long to establish a personal rapport in their meetings in the last two days. This was not only because of the close political ties between the two countries dating back to 30 years but also, in part, to the simple directness of the style of the two Presidents. There was no mincing of words as they spelled out their respective perceptions on world issues — which, of course, were identical.

The possible defence supplies, it was clear, will be dovetailed into link deals or counter-trade under a new concept of trade relationship, now mooted to get over the stagnation of the past. It will not be a barter but each side, instead of paying to the other for its purchases will sell from among an agreed list of items. The details are yet to be settled — this process may move ahead when the Commerce Minister, Mr. Shiv Shanker comes here for a meeting of the joint economic commission.

Follow-up

Mr. Zail Singh was happy that several institutions were at work under a cooperative framework but some, he felt, needed to be activated. Mr. Hasani wondered why there should be ups and downs in trade between India and Yugoslavia. They hoped that there would be an adequate followup of the recent discussion in Delhi of the Yugoslav Prime Minister, Mr. Branko Mikulic, on trade matters. Mr. Mikulic also met Mr. Zail Singh yesterday.

Mr. Zail Singh told his hosts that the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was keen to intensify cooperation between the two countries in economic and other spheres. The two Presidents were happy at the way political relationship had shaped, deriving particular satisfaction from their close coordination at Harare.

The talks revealed a broad identity of views on current international issues as well — on the implications of the abortive Iceland summit, the role of Africa Fund, set up to enable the Frontline States to withstand pressures from South Africa, and of the group of eight non-aligned Foreign Ministers formed at Harare to persuade the industrialised countries to apply sanctions against South Africa. Both India and Yugoslavia are in the Fund and the Group.

Briefly reviewing the progress of the Fund, they noted that some countries favoured economic aid to the Frontline States while others were prepared for military help. Both offers should be welcome, the two Presidents felt.

As regards the Reagan-Gorbachev summit Mr. Zail Singh and Mr. Hasani agreed that some progress had been made despite the breakdown. Those working for peace, in their opinion, needed to make their voices heard. Already world opinion not only in the non-aligned countries but also elsewhere had strengthened in favour of peace. Mr. Hasani cited the case of Europe where neutral and nonaligned countries had contributed significantly to the success of the Stockholm conference of security and cooperation. Also, the non-aligned countries of the Mediterranean were due to meet soon.

Both India and Yugoslavia were keen that world agencies like the U.N. be strengthened and decisions of the World Court respected.

As regards West Asia, they found that lack of unity among Arabs and differences in the

PLO had created many a problem but wanted efforts for solution of relevant problems to be continued.

Mr. Zail Singh's talks with Mr. Mikulic related mainly to bilateral relationship which they noted had not changed despite change in leadership. This, Mr. Mikulic felt, was not a matter of chance but rooted in the joint commitment to the urgency of avoiding superpower confrontation. They, he said, had to fight — for peace and a new international economic order.

2 Nov Activities

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Nov 86 p 9

[Article by Subhash Kirpekar]

[Text]

BRIONI (Yugoslavia),
November 2.

THE President, Giani Zail Singh, told the Yugoslav President, Mr. Sinan Hasani, that the open supply of sophisticated weapons by the U.S. to Pakistan was hampering normalisation of Indo-Pak relations.

These weapons, Mr. Zail Singh said, were being supplied on the plea that Pakistan would use them only against Afghanistan. But past experience had shown that Pakistan had always used the weapons against India.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has also had to postpone his visit to Pakistan, the President told his Yugoslav counterpart during talks that took place yesterday in Belgrade.

Regretting that normalisation of Indo-Pak relations had not come about, Mr. Zail Singh pointed out that the declaration of Pakistan as an Islamic republic under Gen. Zai-ul-Haq's rule had heightened the problems of minorities in that country.

The two presidents concentrated on the problems faced by their respective nations in relation to their neighbouring countries.

Mr. Sinan Hasani spoke of the relationships that Yugoslavia had with its nine neighbours, while Mr. Zail Singh gave him a run-down on India's position vis-a-vis its neighbours.

On Sino-Indian relations, Mr. Zail Singh stated that India was "unpleasantly surprised" when, even before the seventh round of talks were over, there was a Chinese intrusion into the Somdorong Valley in Arunachal Pradesh. India was unable to understand why the Chinese took this step.

India, however, was desirous of improving its relations with all its neighbours, including China. In this

context, Mr. Zail Singh said that India hoped that common friends would utilise every available opportunity to promote such friendship and help in the resolution of problems.

ARMS OFFERED

The Yugoslav deputy foreign minister, Mr. Budimir Loncar, indicated that India might like to look at what Yugoslavia had to offer by way of military equipment. That was why the Indian defence delegation was currently in that country.

If India bought military equipment, it would help in the balance of trade between the two countries. Yugoslavia has a fairly sophisticated military industry and India might be particularly interested in its modified version of a Russian battle tank among other items.

Dr. Loncar pointed out that there was nothing new in India buying military equipment from Yugoslavia.

On Indo-Yugoslav relations, the deputy foreign minister said that on most issues their views were identical. Asked about whether his country's perception of Afghanistan and Kampuchea was different from India's Dr. Loncar said that in principle, there was no difference.

However, Dr. Loncar explained that there was distinction when one looked for a way out of the Afghanistan crisis. Yugoslavia favoured the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan with a guarantee that they would stay out of this independent, non-aligned nation.

Dr. Loncar laid great store by the Africa fund. He described it as "a major political achievement" which demonstrated the readiness of all NAM nations to co-operate and support the frontline states in their struggle against racist Pretoria and the liberation of Namibia.

Asked about extending military co-operation to the frontline states, Dr.

Loncar said that it was necessary first to hear what these states exactly wanted so that the response could be appropriate.

Mr. Zail Singh noted that the only problem that remained to be sorted out with Bangladesh was the one of water resources.

There were gaps in the positions taken by Sri Lanka and India, but essentially, India's position was to bring about a solution in a peaceful manner and without the use of force.

Mr. Hasani pointed out that among Yugoslav neighbours, two were neutral, two were NATO members and three were Warsaw Pact members. There were Yugoslavs in all these countries and people from them in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia wanted these minorities to be recognised and granted equal rights in political, economic, social and religious matters. But some neighbours did not like to recognise these minorities. This was creating problems. "We should look upon these national minorities as cultural bridges and not as points of dispute," Mr. Hasani observed.

N-FREE ZONE

On the Yugoslav proposal of a Balkan nuclear-free zone, Mr. Hasani said that a lack of trust among countries had so far prevented the idea from taking concrete shape.

The talks took place at an "intimate lunch" hosted by the Yugoslav President. Mr. Zail Singh wished Mr. Hasani a happy Diwali and explained to him the significance of the "festival of lights".

All the 85 ambassadors here called on Mr. Zail Singh. These included the SAARC and frontline state envoys. The President had separate meetings with the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors before flying to Brioni.

Earlier, Dr. Loncar told Indian newsmen covering the presidential tour that there could be a confrontation between the two superpowers, if serious differences cropped up.

Referring to the Reagan-Gorbachov summit talks, he said there was cause for concern if such meetings could not produce the desired results. He underscored the danger of the two superpowers heading towards a "critical moment" as the high expectations aroused by the Icelandic summit had been belied.

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CSO: 4600/1199

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS SINGH SPEECH AT ATHENS BANQUET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

Athens, Nov 3 (PTI) — President Zail Singh tonight strongly deplored the abetment of terrorism by certain countries and called for an end to such acts saying they posed a serious threat to peace in many parts of the world.

At a banquet given in his honour by President Christos Sartzetaku on the first day of his state visit here, the President without naming any state, said certain countries were directly or indirectly aiding terrorism.

"We in India as well as the non-aligned movement have consistently condemned all forms of terrorism whether committed by individuals or organised by state, he said.

Mr Zail Singh called the gathering's attention to the explosive situation in southern Africa and urged the international community to exert greater pressure on the racist Pretoria regime to alter its present policies.

In the course of his speech, Mr Zail Singh, the first Indian head of the state to visit Greece, touched on the setback to international disarmament by the failure of the recent Reykjavik Summit, the continued denial of rights to the Palestinian people and the tension in the neighbouring island of Cyprus.

He said the recent summit in the Icelandic capital had belied the hopes and aspirations of mankind. He called for renewed efforts by the six nation group of the five continent peace initiative towards seeking a halt to the nuclear arms race and nuclear testing.

"We believe that a durable peace can be based only on peaceful coexistence not in a dangerous and illusory search for balance of power, which in this nuclear age, translates into a balance of terror, Mr Zail Singh said.

The President said the six countries, including India and Greece, which launched the initiative for nuclear disarmament are linked together in a double cause. "It is natural that the

initiative has received tremendous response from people throughout the world. What is needed now is to go at it with redoubled vigour.

He hoped the super powers would respond to this initiative. "There is absolute justification for all countries big or small, to demand an end to nuclear arms race".

Referring to the tension in Cyprus, the President said it threatened peace in the region. India, he said "has always supported a unified, sovereign, independent and non-aligned Cyprus in which all communities live together in amity and goodwill". He hoped the ongoing efforts to find a solution to the problem would fructify soon.

The President called for the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from occupied Arab lands and said denial of an independent state to the Palestinian people in their own homeland was a constant source of tension in West Asia. India has consistently and uncompromisingly supported the Arab cause, he said.

He also referred to the Iran-Iraq conflict, which, he said had defied solution for the past six years. "Desescalation and cessation of hostilities are desired by all countries and a way must be found to bring an end to this unfortunate conflict", he added.

Turning to bilateral relations, the President said his visit would lead to further strengthening and developing the already friendly relations between the two countries.

Mr Zail Singh said Greece and India were far from each other only in the geographical sense, as contacts between the two countries have existed from time immemorial.

In this context, he said there were references to colonies of Indian traders and philosophers in old Grecian cities and theories about an Indian element in the Phythagorean thought.

INDIA

CORRESPONDENT ON ZAIL SINGH EUROPEAN TOUR

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Nov 86 p 9

[Article by K. K. Katyal]

[Text]

CRACOW, Nov. 9.

The President, Mr. Zail Singh today concluded his tour of Yugoslavia, Greece and Poland on a note of satisfaction, because of the frank and useful exchange of views on global, regional and bilateral issues. The discussions paved the way for important followup steps, particularly in regard to the strategy to be adopted to build upon the positive trends, thrown up by the abortive Iceland summit.

Mr. Zail Singh is due to leave for India tomorrow morning after the 12-day tour which took him for four days each in the three countries. The discussion packed much more than was normally the case with the formal visits of heads of state.

The choice of the countries was both the product of planning and diplomatic coincidences. The programme depended upon the convenience of the host countries as also of Mr. Zail Singh. For instance, he would have visited West Germany as well, had Bonn and New Delhi established contacts earlier than they actually did.

A broad cross-section: The three countries, now visited by him, represented a broad cross-section: Yugoslavia a fellow activist in the Non-aligned Movement, Greece a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Poland of the Warsaw Pact nations. Then there were other dimensions: Greece was associated with India in the six nation initiative, Yugoslavia and India were both in the AFRICA Fund set up at Harare to help the frontline countries resist the pressures of South Africa and the group of Foreign Ministers, formed to canvass the support of the industrialised world for sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

To take the regional issues first, Mr. Zail Singh briefed his opposite numbers in the three countries on India's approach to its problems with Pakistan and China. This was part of a general resume and not a case of going out of the way to complain against the attitude of its neighbours.

Pakistan, he said, had continued to create problems for India (whether he referred to Islamabad's policy of encouraging terrorism in Punjab was not known). At the same time, the President made it a point to refer to the new framework of cooperation—the South Asian As-

sociation of Regional Cooperation—and the expectations pinned by India on the forthcoming summit at Bangalore.

Ties with Beijing: China, too, figured, in the same context, with Mr. Zail Singh pointing out that India's anxiety to promote friendship had not been reciprocated, as was evidenced by the Chinese incursions into Indian territory on the eve of the last round of official talks.

More important was his suggestion to Yugoslavia—which had warm, cordial relations with China—to impress upon Beijing the importance of sorting out problems with India. Because of historical factors dating back to Yugoslavia's fears of Stalinist Russia, Belgrade's ties with China had been notably strong, however, it had not allowed that relationship to come in the way of its intimate links with India. Yugoslavia appeared to have responded positively to the President's idea. This, however, should not raise hopes of its acting as an honest broker in relation to the dispute between India and China. Significantly, the latest Yugoslav maps did not cause offence to India.

Poland too, had developed its trade relations with China at a surprisingly fast speed so much so that Indian tea had been crowded out the transactions with Warsaw.

Economic compulsions: Because of its tight economic situation, Poland has strong compulsions to promote trade with other countries irrespective of the nature of its political ties. This, it was clear, was appreciated by the Soviet Union which, itself, had built up a massive trade relationship with China, though in a different context, the Polish leader, Mr. Wojciech Jaruzelski, made a pointed reference in his talks with Mr. Zail Singh that nothing would be allowed to come in the way of their friendship with India.

Each of the three countries had different expectations from India. Yugoslavia was keen on stepping up trade with India which it rightly felt was not commensurate with the political similarity between the two countries, the new concept of link deals and Yugoslavia's offer of soft credit of \$120 millions was part of a carefully-planned strategy, to take the trade to the 1979 peak of \$200 millions. This was not an impossible task as it had already registered a good increase — from a low of \$35 millions to \$120 millions this year.

The Cyprus issue: Greece was mainly inter-

ested in enlisting India's support in its dispute with Turkey over Cyprus. The Greek President and the Prime Minister devoted considerable time, explaining their viewpoint on what they regarded as the "Issue of Issues." During his formal session with Mr. Zail Singh, the Greek President went twice to his library to bring books to explain his country's position on the dispute. India, however, felt it could be more helpful by not committing itself beyond the position taken by the nonaligned movement. Mr. Zail Singh, therefore, confined himself to commending the initiative of the U.N. Secretary-General for an amicable settlement of the problem.

Post-summit assessment: Poland's stress was both on trade and the post-Reykjavik summit strategy. The Polish leader, while referring to the concessions made by the Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachev, regretted that there had been no matching response from the U.S. President, Mr. Reagan. This perception differed from that of the Greek leaders who while commanding the Soviet proposal, felt that Mr. Reagan too had moved forward.

There was unanimity on the need for new initiatives, at various levels for pursuing the arms control proposals on which the two superpowers had agreed, before reaching the brink. The summit, after all, was not a wasted exercise, they felt.

Interest in population control: The three countries were smaller in size, population and in other respects than India, but carried a political clout which could be of immense use in discussions on the problems of war threats and peace. As against the teeming millions of India, the population of Greece had shown a downward trend. One of the top leaders inquired about the progress of family planning measures in India.

Death factory: The President today paid a sentimental homage to the victims of the Nazi barbarism during the Second World War when he visited the biggest concentration camp and the death factory in the history of mankind.

At this place, now a medium size town, Auschwitz, some four lakh people, men, women and children of various nationalities, but mostly Jews, lost their lives during the last four years of the war. The Polish Government has taken pains to preserve the remnants of the camp.

though much of the evidence was destroyed by the retreating Germans.

The many gas chambers, crematoria, prison blocks or the drawings, charts and models added to the horrifying reminders of the acute agony and torture experienced by the humanity as part of an organised, systematic extermination drive.

Mr. Zail Singh laid a wreath at the memorial in the honour of those who had perished there, saw a short film documenting the details of the ghastly crimes. He told the managers of the complex, now a museum open to the public, to distribute the copies of the film in all countries so that the conscience of the people was aroused against the horrors perpetrated by the Nazis—as against the death and destruction that goes with wars.

Mockery: The film brought out the poignancy of the recent past. The main gate of the camp carried the name given to the place by the Nazis "Work for Freedom" and the script writer of the film noted that there could not be a bigger mockery. Here is a relevant extract from a publication of the Polish Interpress: "From the spring of 1942, the Auschwitz camp became a place of extermination of Jews, transported there from all over Europe. The enormous transports were directed straight from the railway sidings to the gas chambers. Only those who were young, strong and healthy, were placed in the camp for a while until their labour potential was exhausted after which they shared the fate of their fellows".

The models effectively recreated the horrors of the day—showing the big pile of the hair of women, removed after their death, the dentures that were taken to grab the gold, the cloths and other possessions of the victims.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1189

INDIA

MUKHERJEE FORMS NEW PARTY IN WEST BENGAL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

Calcutta, Nov 2 (PTI) — Former Union Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee today announced the launching of a new party in West Bengal -- Indian National Congress (Subhas-Indira) — with Dr Sisir Bose, MLA as its president.

Addressing a joint press conference here with Dr Bose, Mr Mukherjee said that the name of the party was, however, subject to the approval of the "all-India convention of Indira loyalists to be held in Delhi at the end of December".

Mr Mukherjee said that Mr Ananda Mohan Biswas and Mr Samar Mukherjee, the expelled Congress MLAs in West Bengal and Mr Shyamal Bhattacharya, were the three general secretaries of the party.

Asked why he figured only as a member of the new party, the former Union Finance Minister said that he wants to keep himself free for "greater responsibilities". He said he was also simultaneously member of the PCC and the Congress working committee and the Congress Parliamentary Board after the split of the party in 1978.

Dr Bose, an expelled Congress leader said that party would "go into action" very soon for the next year's State Assembly elections. Asked whether the party would forge any alliance with CPI-M or any other party in the elections, Mr Mukherjee said "it is up to the party's State committee to decide on it".

Dr Bose said that the party would hold its first meeting here on 9 November with the district presidents.

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CSO: 4600/1185

INDIA

'RADICAL' CHANGES IN CPI-M DISCUSSED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Nov 86 p 2

[Article by Ashis Barman]

[Text] The CPI-M politburo is reportedly reviewing the Indian political scene and the party's tasks therein. This is periodically done by communist parties amidst changing national and international situation. Internationally, the CPI-M stand has undergone a radical, positive transformation since 1964, when the party broke away from the CPI.

Over a decade after the split, even as the Naxalite explosion rocked the party from within, the CPI-M tried to hold on to the Maoist fancies pertaining to the questions of war and peace, and managed to spread confusion, not only in its own ranks but simultaneously among a section of the radical intelligentsia.

This disoriented ideological approach was not only stridently critical of the alleged Soviet revisionism, but also, as an extension of the same Maoist fancies, used to nurse deep reservations regarding the anti-imperialist nature of the non-aligned movement and India's commendable foreign policy.

Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi had to face considerable criticism for their alleged defaults—defaults judged through a Maoist mirror—on this score.

Domestic and international developments, including the slow anti-Maoist changes in China, however, helped the CPI-M leadership to bring about radical transformation in its international viewpoint and now it stands solidly in favour of India's foreign policy. Besides, its stance towards the Soviet Union and the world communist movement has regained a realistic vision and it has become a part of the world peace

movement.

Domestically, it welcomes and tries to strengthen Indo-Soviet friendship and, unlike in the past, recognises Soviet help towards the attainment of self-reliance in Indian economy, including defence, science and technology.

How radically the CPI-M had changed would be clear if it is recalled that in the past the party had even tended to criticise the Soviets for helping the growth of the Indian public sector under the totally erroneous fear that such help merely strengthens the Indian bourgeoisie.

These positive changes of the

CPI-M have helped the party to attain a clear international perspective in recent times and thereby strengthen India's anti-imperialist worldview. On the domestic scene, however, the party is still dogged by basic confusions, largely shared in some form and other, by the CPI too.

The main source of these confusions resides in the inability of the communists to fathom the complexities of the ongoing Indian democratic transformation, led by an intermediate stratum, in a traditional, backward society, devoid of an all-India influence of the Left.

Yet, measured in terms of an all-India presence, the tiny communist parties—particularly the CPI-M—tend to envisage their

slogans, strategy and tactics, at least at the ideological level, in terms of immediate socialist, people's democratic or democratic advance under the leadership of the Left. While, actually, the communists are participants in the complex—often stalemated or faced with setbacks—zig-zag course of our socio-economic transformation led by the intermediate stratum.

This intermediate stratum, largely behind the Congress—as also in the communist parties—is hardly homogeneous. Apart from the Indian bourgeoisie and the big landowners, even this intermediate stratum consists of progressive and regressive forces in terms of ideology and national aspiration. The CPI and the CPI-M have yet to formulate their path of advance, taking into account these complex, objective factors—an advance which is destined to take place in obtaining Indian reality, stamped with a very weak Left presence, by way of parliamentary processes.

the same resolution, the CPI-M "fights against the growth of monopolies and concentration of capital in India", while the West Bengal administration goes in for joint sector projects with the big business.

True, in the resolution an attempt is made to explain this trying contradiction in the Party's stand in terms of a strange and frivolous concept of class struggle against the Centre, wherein, evidently, the CPI-M's West Bengal unit is leading the monopolies and multinationals in a class struggle against the allegedly "big bourgeois" led Centre in order to ensure multinational and monopolistic growth in the State.

To quote from the resolution: "The Central Government is organising an economic blockage by refusing licences to private firms," and so on, a charge which has never been concretely substantiated by the Bengal Government, and which is explained thus: "This is the form of class struggle the Centre wages against the Left Front ministry".

The CPI-M leadership has to explain how and why the allegedly "big bourgeois"-led Centre would wage a class struggle against its own class-growth in Left ruled States.

Besides, on the same untenable, frivolous plea, all the State Governments are entitled to demand unrestricted growth of the big business in their own States. Then what happens to the CPI-M's avowed intentions to combat

Rajiv Gandhi's alleged regressive softness towards the multinationals and monopolies?

In fact, the communists have no longer the freedom to condemn, in the present conditions, the relative growth of foreign and Indian monopolies in every sector in a blanket manner. Days of such merry simplifications and slogan-mongering were over when the communists began to come to power in few States, within the obtaining correlation of forces, and to run stable administrations.

Time has come to rigorously divide the sectors like defence, science and technology, key industries, infrastructures and so on, where the intrusion of multinationals and monopolies need to be resisted tooth and nail. Also, there is an urgent need, bearing in mind our aims of self-reliance, to figure out not merely the sectors where big business growth is permissible, but also, keeping the national interests in view, the permissible proportions of such growth in respect of gross national industrial produce.

In short, any simplified approach to democratic advance of both the country and the communist movement, including the CPI-M, is no longer going to succeed. The stalemated situation of the CPI-M everywhere, which has stalled its elan in every State, is rapidly making this clear. The decline of the CPI is more pronounced largely due to its inability to chalk out a suitable line independently.

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CSO: 4600/1182

INDIA

CONGRESS-S POSTPONES COMMITTEE SESSION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Nov 86 p 6

[Text]

The All India Congress Committee-S session, scheduled to be held in Aurangabad from 7 December, has again been postponed, reports UNI.

Party president Sharad Pawar, presently in the Capital for consultations with senior party leaders, said on Sunday that "This has become necessary to ensure that the AICC session does not clash with the Maharashtra Assembly session beginning in Nagpur from 24 November".

Earlier, the AICC's session was scheduled to be held from 15 November but was postponed by three weeks.

Meanwhile, party secretary Kishore Chandra Deo, MP, has said that "If a few individuals like Mr Suresh Kalmadi and others want to join the Congress, they are free to do so but they have no right to force others and the party to follow them in this opportunistic game".

Mr Deo said those opposed to the merger move will not participate in the meeting of the working committee if recently co-opted members were also invited.

Mr Pawar said there would be no separate meeting of the working committee to consider the merger move as suggested by its staunch advocate, Mr Suresh Kalmadi. The working committee meeting, to be held at Aurangabad on the eve of the session, may consider the issue, he added.

Mr Deo observed that the fears expressed by him at the time of the passage of the Anti-Defection Act had now come true as according to him, the Congress was not only "using the enactment to silence dissent within the party but also using it to throttle smaller parties".

Mr Deo said he and others, opposed to the merger, would "watch the situation as it develops", before deciding about the next step.

Bahuguna's call: Lok Dal working president H N Bahuguna today advocated formation of an all-party national government. Addressing a public meeting in Delhi he felt that various national problems could not be solved with a single party rule at the Centre.

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CSO: 4600/1190

INDIA

MINISTER SAYS KHARIF PRODUCTION LEVEL TO BE MAINTAINED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Oct 86 p 9

[Text]

Despite worse monsoon the kharif production would be around 85 million tonnes as last year and with adequate arrangements of inputs the next Rabi may achieve the targeted production of 71 million tonnes.

This was stated by Agriculture Minister G S Dhillon at the consultative committee of MPs attached to his ministry on Wednesday.

He said that this time the major water reservoirs had nine per cent more water for rabi and the supply position of quality seeds and fertiliser was also quite comfortable.

The Minister said that during the kharif season, rainfall was deficient in at least 14 subdivisions out of a total of 35. The major areas affected include Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Assam, Gujarat and Kerala. Moreover, there were floods in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

The meeting discussed mainly agricultural research and cooperation.

Referring to the progress made in crop production, animal husbandry and fisheries, the Minister said this was possible largely because of the work done by scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. He said the council with its network of 47 central institutes, 89 krishi vigyan kendras and 151 operation research projects was at present giving a greater thrust to conservation and broadening of the ge-

netic base, increased productivity under low inputs, and development of integrated farming systems. In animal husbandry there was considerable emphasis on use of embryo-technology for quick genetic improvement.

The Minister noted that agricultural development was most pronounced in areas where cooperatives were strong. There were three lakh cooperatives in the country with a membership of 125 million.

Outlining the tasks set for the cooperative sector in the current Plan, the Minister said cooperative credit was proposed to be stepped up by 118 per cent to Rs 7070 crores. Agriculture marketing services were also proposed to be increased by 85 per cent to a value of Rs 5000 crore.

The distribution of fertilisers through cooperatives was planned to be increased by 127 per cent.

Members taking part in the meeting noted with regret that in a number of states elections to cooperative societies at different levels had not been held for years. The committee unanimously felt that timely elections were most vital and urged the chairman to take up the issue with the State governments.

INDIA

GOVERNMENT FORMULATES 3-YEAR COTTON EXPORT POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Oct 86 p 1

[Text]

FOR the first time, a three-year cotton export policy has been formulated by the government to end uncertainty regarding the availability of Indian cotton in foreign markets.

The policy envisages a minimum annual export of 600,000 bales of different types of cotton beginning with the 1986-87 cotton season (August-July). The export would be subjected to a minimum export price to be decided by a committee headed by the textile commissioner.

Explaining the salient features of the new policy here today, the new textiles minister, Mr. R. N. Mirdha, said directions had been given for immediate release of 250,000 bales for export. Of this, 200,000 bales would be extra long and long staple cotton and the rest Bengal Desi.

He said India was now in a position to sustain this level of exports in view of good domestic production for the third consecutive year, the country was expecting a bumper crop of about 10.20 million bales. In addition, it had an opening stock of 2.98 million bales. While the total cotton consumption in a year was about 9.95 million bales.

Mr. Mirdha, however, did not rule out the possibility of the minimum export price being fixed at less than the minimum support price for cotton. Prices were depressed in the international market because of considerable improvement in the world cotton supply. By exporting cotton at less than the minimum support price, India would at least save on storage costs.

Under the three-year policy, it is proposed to export at least 500,000 bales of long and extra long staple cotton and 50,000 bales each of Digvijay and Bengal Desi. The export would be made through various agencies, namely the Cotton Corporation of India, the Cotton Marketing Federations of the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Punjab and private trade.

NEW MARKETS

The minister explained that the policy had been evolved on advice from experts, to end the confusion on account of late releases of cotton. He, however, felt that a comparatively long-term policy should be evolved for cotton exports.

The major market for Indian cotton comprised the far-east and there was now a demand from Europe, especially the European Economic Community, he said.

Asked about the new textile policy, the minister said it was too early to assess its efficacy in quantitative terms. Nevertheless, the policy had "by and large proved successful."

Meanwhile, the National Textile Corporation has retrenched over 17,000 workers to effect economy as per its labour rationalisation programme.

The entire labour rationalisation programme in NTC mills is expected to be completed within two years.

The corporate office has instructed the nine subsidiary corporations of NTC to make efforts to enforce new man-machine ratio norms.

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CSO: 4600/1192

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT ON CONTENT OF 1986-87 PLAN

Presented in Lok Sabha

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Nov. 7.—An Annual Plan of nearly Rs 40,000 crores for the current financial year with an emphasis on jobs for the poor and efforts to complete ongoing projects was presented to the Lok Sabha today. Work on it has been going on and these are near-final projections for the year that will end in five months.

The 1986-87 Plan provides Rs 22,300 crores for Central schemes—an increase of more than 20% over the approved outlay and 11% more than the last year's. The Union Territories will be given Rs 873 crores—an increase of 36% over the previous year. The States will receive Rs 15,879 crores—a 21% increase and 15% more than the 1985-86 revised estimates.

Domestic resources are expected to finance about 81% of the Annual Plan while the net inflow of assistance from abroad will be 9.3%. Deficit financing of about Rs 3,800 crores or nearly 9.4% of the outlay is proposed to meet the Annual Plan objectives.

The review of the economy for the past year says that the Gross Domestic Product in real terms is estimated to have gone up by more than 4.5%, against 3.7% in 1984-85. Industrial buoyancy with

increased production of 6.2%—and agricultural stability despite erratic rains and floods contributed to a reasonably good performance. The total grain production was said to be 150.5 million tons in the past year whereas it was 146.2 million tons in the previous year. The production targets were, however, not reached.

In keeping with the Seventh Plan aims, emphasis continues on food, employment, productivity and infrastructure which "is a prerequisite to economic growth". As the Railways and transport modes have done well, priority to their development has been given. About 44% of the total plan outlay or about Rs 18,000 crores has been allocated for energy and transport. Food stock will be maintained at a high level. Substantial provisions have also been made for human resource development.

Edible oilseed supplies have lagged behind demand, with a drop of 14% in production. Imports put a heavy burden on the foreign exchange resources. The National Oilseeds Project is being recast to strengthen the key institutions providing inputs, extension and credit to farmers.

Further Details Given

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 8 Nov 86 p 4

[Text] **New Delhi, Nov. 7 (PTI):** The size of the annual plan for 1986-87 has been fixed at Rs 39,052 crores, of which Rs 22,300 crores are for the central plan, Rs 873 crores for Union territories and Rs 15,879 crores for states.

It is expected that domestic resources would finance 80.8 per cent of the plan outlay and the net inflow from abroad would account for another 9.8 per cent, says the document laid on the table of the Lok Sabha. The balance 9.4 per cent would be met through deficit financing.

The outlay for the Central plan represents an increase of 20.5 per cent over the approved outlay and 11 per cent of the revised estimate for 1985-86. For the states it is a 21 per cent rise over the approved outlay and 15 per cent over the revised estimate for 1985-86.

The revised estimate for 1985-86 at Rs 34,219 crores consists of Rs 20,094 crores for the Centre and Rs 14,125 crores for the states and Union territories (Rs 13,482 crores and Rs 643 crores). Compared to the original outlay, it is higher by Rs 1,595 crores for the Central plan and Rs 386 crores for states and Union territories (Rs 385 crores and Rs 1 crore).

The plan seeks to generate additional employment and in-

come for the weaker sections and lays stress on improving productivity through better capacity utilisation, greater efficiency in the use of resources and upgradation of technology.

As a result of policy initiatives and vigorous implementation of development programmes, there was improvement in the growth rate of the economy says the document.

The plan lays emphasis on timely completion of ongoing projects in an advanced stage as well as those which can be completed quickly to realise the benefits from the investments made.

In the review of economy in 1985-86, the document says that apart from the higher growth rate of the economy, there was buoyancy in public revenues and a decline in the rate of inflation. The balance of payments situation, however, showed a deterioration.

Industrial production rose by 6.2 per cent and the gross domestic product in real terms went up by over 4.5 per cent (estimates) against 3.7 per cent in 1984-85. Despite unfavourable monsoon, agricultural production was higher than in 1984-85. Infrastructural facilities increased substantially, particularly railway transport.

The foodgrains output is provisionally put at 150.50 million tonnes (146.200 million tonnes in 1984-85) but compared to the target set, there was a substantial shortfall.

The provisional index of industrial production shows an increase of 6.2 per cent. Though it is short of the plan target of 7 per cent, the growth rate has been rising steadily since 1983-84, says the document.

The trade deficit widened sharply to Rs 7,951 crores from Rs. 5,187 crores, as per preliminary data. Imports increased by about 11 per cent to Rs. 18,371 crores. Exports declined by about three per cent in rupee terms, reflecting lower than targetted real growth over the year.

The industrial production index, the document says, however does not reflect fully the growth due to the inadequate coverage of small units and industries in the newly emerging high growth areas such as electronics.

Production exceeded targets in the case of crude oil, petroleum refining, steel, zinc, types of machinery, phosphatic fertilizers, bulk drugs and formulations, tyres, jute manufactures, man-made fibres, textile yarn and certain electronic items among others.

Shortfalls were in coal, cement, nitrogenous fertilisers, motor vehicles, ship building.

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CSO: 4600/1191

Further Details Given

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 8 Nov 86 p 4

[Text] **New Delhi, Nov. 7 (PTI):** The size of the annual plan for 1986-87 has been fixed at Rs 39,052 crores, of which Rs 22,300 crores are for the central plan, Rs 873 crores for Union territories and Rs 15,879 crores for states.

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CSO: 4600/1191

INDIA

POSITION OF ECONOMY ON EVE OF NEW SAMVAT YEAR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Nov 86 pp 1, 15

[Article by D.G. Gupte]

[Text]

ON the eve of the New Samvat Year 2043, although the prospects of the economy are considered good, there is a feeling among the business community that the economy needs a thrust, if the country has to reap the benefits of the various policy changes effected during the past two years.

The consensus in trade and industry seems to be that for achieving the desired results, an atmosphere of trust needs to be built between the government on the one hand and trade and industry on the other.

A thrust to the economy has become necessary in the context of the growth rate in national income being well below five per cent in two successive years 1984-85, the last year of the sixth plan, and 1985-86, the first year of the seventh plan.

The average annual growth rate during the sixth plan (1980-85) was 5.3 per cent, while the seventh plan (1985-90) aims at sustaining the growth rate in national income at five per cent.

The support to growth in the seventh plan period is expected to emanate from the industrial sector, which is targeted to grow at eight per cent per annum as against the growth rate of about 5.6 per cent in the sixth plan period.

However, the growth in the industrial sector was only 6.3 per cent in 1985-86. What is more, in the first quarter of the current year (April-June 1986), the growth rate is placed at only 5.8 per cent, the same as in the corresponding period of 1985-86. This would indicate the need for a boost to the industrial sector in particular in the coming years.

In the industrial sector, the seventh plan lays special emphasis on improvement in productivity and upgradation of technology. In this respect, various policy measures have been announced in the past two years.

The broad-banding of products for the purpose of licensing in various industries has been introduced. Several industries have been delicensed. Entrepreneurs are permitted to set up units or expand their existing units to achieve economies of scale.

Under the long-term three-year import-export policy, freer import of plant, equipment and technology to achieve upgradation of technology has been permitted. Incentives for export-oriented units have been granted. Rationalisation of excise and import duties and reduction in tax rates, both corporate and personal, have been announced. The asset limit of MRTP companies has been raised and the rules regarding capital issues have been relaxed.

IMPORT POLICY

No doubt, the full impact of the various measures can be expected to manifest itself after a time lag of two years or so. But efforts need to be made to ensure that such a time lag is reduced to the minimum.

The liberalisations in import of plant and equipment have resulted in the suffering of the domestic industries engaged in the production of capital equipment and machinery for certain sectors, and at the same time provided a boost to those units which are producing complementary plant and machinery and providing services to these sectors.

The infrastructural constraints, particularly in the field of power and transport, still continue to worry the industrialists. Their removal needs to be given utmost priority if a breakthrough is to be achieved.

In the agricultural sector, the strategy adopted in the past few years has yielded major gains such as self-sufficiency in foodgrains, reflected in the sizable stocks of foodgrains with the public distribution system. However, even the agricultural scene is characterised by regional and crop imbalances.

While wheat production has shown a compound annual growth rate of about 6 per cent between 1967-68 and 1985-86, rice production has shown a growth rate of only 2.8 per cent. The growth rate in pulses is negligible, while coarse grains have recorded a decline of about 0.6 per cent.

There is an exportable surplus of wheat. Large stocks of foodgrains have led to problems in terms of both cost to the national exchequer and deterioration in quality. Subsidies for food and fertilisers have risen from Rs. 1,200 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 3,700 crores in 1985-86. The production of cotton, raw jute and mesta have already exceeded the seventh plan target. But the country has still to depend on imports of sugar and edible oils.

For removing the cropping and regional imbalances in the agricultural sector, it might be necessary to evolve an integrated agricultural policy encompassing production, pricing and marketing. The earlier it is done, the better it will be.

Foodgrains production in 1986-87 is estimated at 150 million tonnes against 148-149.5 million tonnes in 1985-86 and 146.2 million tonnes in 1984-85. As regards commercial crops, the production of cotton is estimated at 102 lakh bales of 170 kg each in the 1986-87 season (September-August), against 107 lakh bales in the 1985-86 season and 88 lakh bales in 1984-85 season.

Sugar production in the 1986-87 season (October-September) is placed at 80 lakh tonnes against 70 lakh tonnes in 1985-86 and 61.43 lakh tonnes in 1984-85. Imports of sugar might thus become inevitable in the current season as well. Sugar imports totalled 12 lakh tonnes in 1985-86 against 11.87 lakh tonnes in 1984-85. In 1986-87, the country might have to import about 10 lakh tonnes of sugar.

SAVING FACT

Oilseeds production is estimated at 125 lakh tonnes in 1986-87 season (November-October) against 116 lakh

tonnes in 1985-86 and 131 lakh tonnes in 1984-85. Imports of edible oils totalled 12.50 lakh tonnes in 1985-86 against 13.68 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 and 16.34 lakh tonnes in 1983-84. In the current year, imports of 12 lakh tonnes of edible oils might be needed.

A redeeming feature in 1985-86 was the perceptible abatement of inflationary pressures as shown by the continuing deceleration in the wholesale price index for the third year in succession. On a point to point basis, wholesale prices rose by 3.8 per cent in 1985-86 against the rise of 7.6 per cent in 1984-85 and 8.9 per cent in 1983-84. This was possible mainly by the prudent demand and supply management. In the current year so far (up to September 21, 1986) the price index has shown a net rise of six per cent.

A noteworthy development has been a significant slowdown in the rate of expansion of broad money (M3) in 1985-86, at 15.2 per cent against 18.7 per cent in 1984-85 and 17.9 per cent in 1983-84. In the first half of the current year (April-September 1986) M3 has shown a net rise of 6.6 per cent.

PRICE RISE

However, consumer prices have recorded, on a point to point basis, a rise of 8.9 per cent in 1985-86 against five per cent in 1984-85. In the current year also, a further rise is noticed in the consumer price index. This would underline the need for continued vigilance over the price situation.

The situation on the external front is, however, far from encouraging, and needs to be watched with utmost care. The annual trade deficit, which hovered around Rs. 5,500 crores during the sixth plan, reached a new record of Rs. 8,616 crores in 1985-86, the first year of the seventh plan.

During the year, exports were placed at Rs. 11,006 crores and imports at Rs. 19,622 crores. While exports declined by 7.2 per cent, imports surged forward by 14.3 per cent over 1984-85. Exports of coffee, cereals, spices, marine products, iron ore, leather and leather goods, gems and jewellery, textiles and petroleum products showed a rise, while those of tea, tobacco, engineering products, and crude oil showed a decline.

Large increases were noticed in imports of capital goods, fertilisers, edible oils, petroleum and petroleum products, non-ferrous metals, iron and steel and machinery.

INVISIBLE RECEIPTS

Net invisible receipts were also lower because of the growing interest payments and a fall in private transfers. The buoyancy in foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) account deposits and

a moderate increase in external aid limited the dependence on foreign commercial borrowings and helped to strengthen the reserves position to some extent.

Despite this, there have been signs of deterioration in the balance payments in 1985-86. This calls for urgent measures to reduce the current account deficit mainly through the contraction of trade deficit. In this context, the need for stepping up exports cannot be overemphasised.

The authorities expect that the large industry in particular should make a greater contribution to exports. However, many of the export-oriented units have been facing constraints in increasing their exports substantially in the short-term. No significant improvement is generally expected in the international trade environment, although the prospects of world trade growth are considered somewhat better.

FOREIGN AID

During 1986-87, net oil imports in value terms are expected to be significantly lower. The same trend is expected to continue in the remaining years of the seventh plan. The private transfer receipts, which formed an important element of net invisible receipts in the last decade, are likely to decline in the coming years. Net interest payments during 1986-87 will be higher because of increased external borrowings, both at concessional and commercial rates.

On the capital account, while the net external assistance is expected to be higher, the scheduled repayments to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be substantially larger during 1986-87. Although the World Bank has indicated maintenance of its assistance level, including the soft assistance by the International Development Association (IDA), in the current year, and the level of foreign exchange reserves is fairly comfortable, the balance of payments situation during 1986-87 and beyond will be critical for the successful implementation of the seventh plan.

On the fiscal front, there has been a buoyancy in tax revenues in the current year so far, and this is expected to continue in the remaining period of the year. The finance minister has been successful in achieving this rise in tax revenue because of several measures adopted in the past two years. While the revenue receipts have shown a rise, efforts will have to be made to contain the non-plan non-developmental expenditure in particular.

PROJECT EXPENSES

The pace of expenditure on planned projects does not seem to have gathered momentum. The finance ministry is stated to be having an exercise of securing an reduction in expenditure, including that on plan. This does not augur well for accelerating the tempo in economic

activity. In India, even the private sector depends largely on the spending by the government sector.

Resource constraint is expected to emerge as a serious factor, since the fiscal deficit cannot be allowed to rise beyond limits, as this might exert inflationary pressures. The importance of increasing the savings rate in the country, and channelling these savings to desired sectors where production can increase in the short run cannot, therefore, be over-emphasised.

Raising of the gross savings rate from the present level of 22-23 per cent of the gross domestic product (GNP) will no doubt call for strenuous efforts, but given the political will, it should not be difficult to achieve the goal.

In the shortterm, timely completion of projects, avoidance of cost over-run, improving capital-output ratio, higher capacity utilisation of existing projects, both in the public and private sectors, and reducing the industrial sickness incidence will be needed to improve production and productivity.

At the same time, as a longterm strategy, upgradation of technology and achieving economies of scale of production to international standards, improving the quality of products so as to increase exports will be needed.

SERVICE SECTOR

With the rise in the contribution of the services sector to the total GNP in the domestic sector, this sector can help increase the invisible receipts, broadening its horizon and tapping the overseas markets. For example, exports of computer software can be increased manifold. Similar is the case with other services.

The capital market remained extremely buoyant last year, with a phenomenal increase in the direct mobilisation of funds by the private sector. Besides equity issues, debenture issues — both convertible and non-convertible — attracted encouraging support from investors.

The Union finance minister is hopeful of maintaining his target of Rs. 5,000 crores worth of capital issues approvals set for the current year. He has said that during the seven-month period of the current year (April-October), Rs. 2,871 crores worth of capital issues have been approved against Rs. 1,487 crores in the same period last year. Thus, last year's record level of Rs. 3,695 crores is likely to be surpassed in the first eight months. For the year 1982-83, total approvals stood at Rs. 893 crores.

In 1986-87, capital issues are expected to be significantly higher at Rs. 4,000 crores compared to around Rs. 2,500 crores in 1985-86 and Rs. 1,350 crores in 1984-85. Large issues of shares and convertible debentures totalling Rs. 1,000 crores are slated to be made in the next two months.

Mr. V.P. Singh has announced that the government is considering a proposal to change the guidelines governing premium on public issues being floated by existing companies. It is also looking into the aspect of a reduction in the existing time span of 36 months to 24 or 18 months between the issue of successive bonus shares by a company. In addition, the government is also looking into the possibilities of evolving an attractive scheme to facilitate the closely held companies to go public.

This should augur well for buoyancy in the capital market. No doubt, investors have become choosy in the new issues market. The days of any public issue — big or small, by an existing company or an unknown entrepreneur — getting oversubscribed are over. Investors have in the recent past shown preference for only issues of existing, well-managed companies having a good track record or by companies proposing to set up projects having good potential.

The government wants the corporate sector to mobilise resources from the market and reduce its dependence on the public financial institutions. Thus, the size of the capital market is expected to remain large in the coming years. For this, continuity in government policy is necessary.

For example, the revision in the guidelines for issue of debentures and specifically banning the conversion of non-convertible debentures and specifically banning the conversion of non-convertible debentures or non-convertible portion of non-convertible debentures into equity shares affected adversely the flow of individual investments to the non-convertible debentures of private sector companies. These debentures had also to compete with the non-convertible debentures and other instruments of public sector companies offering certain tax advantages.

EXCHANGE CRISIS

For the stock exchange, the Samvat Year 2042 was on the whole good, although wide fluctuations were noticed. The all-India share price index showed a rise of only 14 per cent against the net rise of 58 per cent in the previous year. This would indicate that the bullish fervour noticed from November, 1984 to early 1986 could not be sustained during the major part of the year.

Towards the end of the Samvat Year, the Bombay stock exchange was in the

grip of a serious payment crisis, followed quickly by large-scale raids by the income-tax authorities on the offices and residence of some leading brokers in Bombay. At one time, it was feared that even the traditional 'moorat' trading may not take place for the new year. But the stock exchange authorities were successful in persuading the stock broking community to lift the boycott.

A new class of investors has emerged on the stock exchange. The number of shareholders and debentureholders, which was about 10 million, is expected to rise to 15 million in the next two years. The stock broking community and the stock exchanges will, therefore, have to gear themselves to cater to the needs of such a large number of investors.

The committee under the chairmanship of Mr. G.S. Patel, former chairman of Unit Trust, has made valuable suggestions for streamlining the procedures and evolving methods for disciplining the stock-broking community.

NEW BODY

There is need for not only streamlining the procedures of actual transactions on the stock exchange but also delivery of shares and debenture certificates to the stock exchange clearing house, and more so, the transfer of such documents from the seller to the buyer. A separate organisation like the stock holding organisation could provide an answer to this problem.

The outlook for the stock market as well the new issues market can be considered to be good. Although the days of sustained buoyancy cannot be expected to return, the stock exchange can be expected to behave normally in the coming year. With the expected continuation of the government policies and the increase in the number of shares and debentures to be listed on the stock exchange, activity is expected to increase.

The overall trend of share prices will, however, depend on the changes in the government policy, if any, the pick-up in the industrial sector as also the attitude of institutional investors. It would be necessary for the stock exchange authorities to keep a strict vigil, and ensure that the stock exchange does not get into the grip of a few bull or bear operators, who can play havoc on the market, as has been noticed in the past.

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CSO: 4600/1196

INDIA

DEFENSE RESEARCH LABORATORY HOLDS EXPOSITION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Nov 86 p 1

[Article by L.K. Sharma]

[Text] SURVEILLANCE RADAR (TOINS): "Indra," the low-level surveillance radar developed by a defence research laboratory has won the users' approval leading to an initial order worth Rs. 500 crores placed on Bharat Electronics Ltd. which will take up its production.

This radar incorporates the latest state-of-the-art technology and will be contemporary equipment even in the '90s by which time India plans to achieve a large measure of self-reliance in defence equipment.

"Indra" and some other pieces of equipment testifying to the progress of the R&D efforts displayed at Pragati Maidan were witnessed by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday. The exposition held by the defence research and development organisation was seen by senior officers of the army, air force and navy who had assembled for a conference here.

The highlight of the exposition are, of course, the major projects which have to cross many hurdles. These include the main battle tank and the Light Combat Aircraft.

A preliminary study of an airborne early warning system mounted on Avro is presented which makes it quite clear that there is no easy indigenous answer to the sophisticated airborne warning and control systems (AWACS). The development cost of the latest AWACS has been, for example, estimated at Rs. 190 crores and this U.S. system presently costs Rs. 190 crores per piece.

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CSO: 4600/1196

INDIA

GOVERNMENT TO LICENSE-PRODUCE FOREIGN TRAINER JET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Nov 86 p 9

[Text]

India has decided to licence-produce a foreign aircraft as the new advanced jet trainer for the air force, according to the 'Interavia Airl etter', reports PTI.

The Geneva-based publication said an Indian defence team had already visited the United Kingdom and France to evaluate British aerospace's Hawk Trainer and the French Alpha Jet for this purpose.

The Hawk Trainer is primarily designed to be an operational trainer, while the Alpha Jet is a combat aircraft adapted to the trainer role.

The team has also assessed the Hawk 200 for ground attack and anti-shipping roles, "Interavia" said. The Indian air staff target drawn up in 1981 had envisaged that the advanced jet trainer would be designed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

The earlier objective, "Interavia" said, was to utilise technology gained from the Jaguar project. HAL's preliminary design was for an aircraft using the Jaguar front fuselage and empennage and a single "Adour" engine.

Since the Jaguar was designed as a low-level penetration aircraft, its wing loading was found to be far too high for a trainer which requires maximum manoeuvrability. A new wing design was necessary and the project was shelved.

The current plan calls for the purchase of "large numbers" of the selected aircraft, before licensed production begins at HAL's Bangalore facility, "Interavia" said.

It also said that the Hawk would seem better placed in this selection, because of the commonality of its "Adour" engine and some of its systems with the Jaguar already being operated by the Indian Air force.

Meanwhile, the Jane's Defence Weekly has reported that India is going to acquire some Soviet-built aircraft to strengthen its reconnaissance capability.

The journal said the Indian Navy intends to purchase the long-range TU-95 and the acquisition agreement is expected to be signed in the near future. The Navy currently operates the Illyushin IL-38 Mays in the reconnaissance role, the journal said.

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CSO: 4600/1193

INDIA

NAVAL OFFICER CALLS FOR INDIGENOUS DEFENSE PRODUCTION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Oct 86 p 7

[Article by Shireen D. Mistry]

[Text]

BOMBAY, Oct. 27.—Rear-Admiral V. S. Shekhawat, Flag Officer Commanding, Western Fleet last week called for greater orientation towards defence production on the part of Indian industry, especially the private sector. Addressing a Press party on board the INS Ganga, India's first indigenously designed warship, which can operate in nuclear, chemical and biological warfare conditions, Rear-Admiral Shekhawat said that the growth of an industrial structure was necessary to build, operate and maintain a navy.

He pointed out that the first prerequisite was an awareness of quality control, which should permeate through all ranks of industrial workers. "In war, there are no prizes for the runners-up", he cautioned.

He said that the Indian Navy had still to catch up with the more advanced navies of the world, and attributed India's position to long years of colonial domination.

Rear-Admiral Shekhawat regretted that the private sector had not shown much desire to enter into defence-related fields of production. Building a navy was a "slow and expensive" process. He said the aim of the defence forces was to make it costly for even a super-power to interfere in our affairs or legitimate interests".

Comparing a warship to a seagoing fortress city, Rear-Admiral Shekhawat said of INS Ganga: "We are very happy with it". Designed exclusively by the Indian Naval

Design Organization, INS Ganga represents the most sophisticated war arm of the Indian Navy. A unique feature of the ship is that it is the only frigate-sized ship in the world to have deck and hangar space for two Seaking helicopters. INS Ganga is commanded by Captain Kallash Kohli.

Rear-Admiral Shekhawat was addressing the Press during naval exercises about 60 miles off the Bombay coast in which INS Ganga, INS Rana, the guided missile destroyer INS Ranvir, and INS Vindhyaigiri participated, along with Seaking and Chetak helicopters and the missile submarine INS Vagil.

Missile boats carried out a simulated attack with surface-to-surface missiles. A helicopter dropped a depth charge and then demonstrated a sea rescue operation. Anti-submarine rockets and other underwater explosives were fired, after which the INS Vagil demonstrated its surfacing and diving skills.

Men, materials and a few volunteers were transferred from INS Ganga to INS Vindhyaigiri and back along a jackstay suspended between the two ships as they steamed at the same speed and course.

In response to questioning, Rear-Admiral Shekhawat indicated that "it will be only a question of time before we have our own missiles". Questioned on whether he was satisfied with the defence R & D budget, he said: "It is never enough".

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CSO: 4600/1193

INDIA

DETAILS OF PLANNED KARWAR NAVAL BASE REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Oct 86 p 14

[Text]

THE acquisition of land for a new naval base at Karwar on the western coast is expected to be a smooth affair since the defence ministry has received the full co-operation of the Janata government in Karnataka.

Although the land requirement was reduced from 12,000 acres to 8,000 acres, all other terms and conditions and resettlement plans have been finalised.

The naval base project is expected to be operational by 1996, to meet the growing requirements of the Indian navy, and the heavy investments in off-shore oil installations.

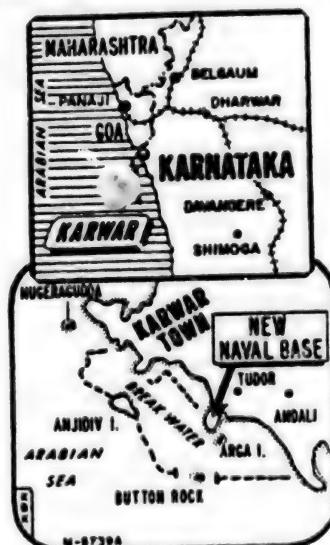
More than 40 consultancy organisations from all over the world have shown interest in the project contracts. Land acquisition will be finalised by April next year and detailed project report will be ready by the end of 1987.

The Karwar site, which is midway between the naval installations in Bombay and Cochin, was selected by an expert committee as it provided an ideal location for a naval harbour. The cost of dredging will be less and weather is suitable. The absence of a rail link is a disadvantage but it would be got over once a new railway link is established.

The project envisages investment of Rs. 350 crores over the seventh and eighth plan periods and includes a shipyard for manufacturing and maintenance of naval vessels.

Once the base is set up, there would be about 15,000 naval personnel living there. The base will be bigger than those in Bombay and Visakhapatnam. It will have a station for the navy's air wing, which currently uses facilities operated by the IAF.

The new base will service the large aircraft carriers as also ship-borne aircraft. Additional land has been earmarked for expansion of the project.



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CSO: 4600/1192

INDIA

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY PANEL--Bahrain, 30 Oct (Reuter)--Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has relieved the oil minister, Mr Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the chief architect of Arab oil power, of his job, the official Saudi Press Agency announced today. A royal decree issued late last night did not give a reason for the decision. Mr Yamani, who had been minister since 1962, was unwell at the marathon 17-day OPEC conference which ended in Geneva a week ago. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Oct 86 p 9] /9274

AIRCRAFT CARRIER PURCHASE --New Delhi, 7 Nov (PTI)--The Indian Navy plans to buy a third aircraft carrier at an estimated cost of Rs 500 crores, reports "Flight International." The British magazine says that India's chief of naval staff, Admiral R. H. Tahliani, held detailed discussions in London on the proposal for the third carrier. It has not yet been decided whether the new Invincible class carrier will be built in the United Kingdom or under licence at Mazgaon Docks in Bombay, it adds. The Indian Navy currently operates the "INS Vakrant" and the recently purchased "HMS Hermes." [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Nov 86 p 9] /9274

CSO: 4600/1178

IRAN

VELAYATI DENIES REPORT ON IRAQ PARTITION TALKS WITH TURKEY

NC091708 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 5 Oct 86 p 12

[Dogan Uluc report from New York]

[Excerpt] In an exclusive statement to HURRIYET, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said: "Certain circles wish to disrupt relations between Turkey and Iran." Refuting claims that Turkey will occupy Kirkuk and Musil in the event of an Iranian thrust into Iraq, he said this was not discussed during the meeting between Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

Velayati also had this to say about a report published by the WALL STREET JOURNAL the day before yesterday, claiming that Vahit Halefoglu had bargained with Aqazadeh on Turkey's occupation of Kirkuk and Musil following an Iranian victory over Iraq:

"This was not discussed during the meeting held by Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh and Foreign Minister Halefoglu in August. The main topic of the two ministers' conversation was the load that two Turkish tankers will be carrying and the shipment of natural gas. Halefoglu said nothing about the occupation of Kirkuk and Musil by Turkey. This disgusting fabrication was generated by those who wish to disrupt relations between Turkey and Iran, which are fraternal and friendly countries. Our relations are excellent, and we wish to develop them further. Let's not give those who harbor ulterior motives an opportunity to work against us."

Replying to a question as to when the war, which has already resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people in both Iran and Iraq, will end, Velayati said:

"Iraq started the war. Hitler's attacks in World War II were stopped by military force and not through talks. We will continue to fight Iraq until justice prevails. The war will not end tomorrow."

Velayati claimed that Iran does not covet Iraqi soil and would not occupy that country following an Iranian victory.

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CSO: 4600/58

IRAN

MINISTRY REPLIES TO NEWSPAPER CRITICISM

PM101413 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Sep 86 p 18

[Feature in "Opinion Column" series on government's new economic package, comprising Ministry of Heavy Industry reply to criticism by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI economic correspondents published in 17 September KEYHAN: untitled]

[Text] This is a reply to an article published in the KEYHAN "Opinion Column" on 17 September. The public Relations Department of the Ministry of Heavy Industry feels it necessary to thank the esteemed KEYHAN newspaper for creating this very timely and useful column, which is a good step for the healthy expression of views and even correcting paths. We also thank the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper's "economic section" for taking an active part in this debate in commenting on the interview with the minister of heavy industry about current issues. The minister's views of course reflect, for the most part, the policies of the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

The above-mentioned article, which was a reply to comments by the minister of heavy industry, needs some answers and some corrections. Therefore, for the information of the esteemed readers and also the brothers in the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI economic section, we would like to make the following points:

1. What surprised the minister of heavy industry was the manner of the JOMHURI economic section's confrontation with this ministry, especially through a major publication. Although we are quite familiar with this type of confrontation, and much as we are used to feeling like the proverbial chicken slaughtered for both funerals and weddings, we did not expect to be accused by the government's friends and supporters and backers of the Hezbollah in this manner, in one of the country's major newspapers, of being "limited in thought" and "selfish," of "taking singular decisions," of "self-centered behavior" and so forth.

If the brothers at the JOMHURI economic section opposed the views and methods of this ministry or its minister, they could have pointed out its shortcomings and presented constructive alternatives. Not only would that not have surprised us; we would have been thankful. But "finding the roots and analyzing the actions of this ministry" and making the above accusations as the newspaper does remind one, despite the use of friendly terminology such as

"the dear brothers at the Ministry of Heavy Industry," of the hostile position taken by some writers. The Imam mentioned such writers as his meeting with the cabinet. In order to accentuate confrontation these authors use sentences and words that appear to be complimentary and friendly. We accept the harshest and strongest criticism with regard to our policies and actions from our closest friends, as precious gifts. But we think it below the dignity to engage in this type of sly analysis, false accusations, and mud-slinging.

We know that our friends did not write the article mentioned with such aims in mind, because if that were the goal, it would be tantamount to weakening the government and the country's executive power--which of course our brothers in the JOMHURI economic section did not intend to do.

2. Bringing up issues such as "layoffs" and "compulsory separations" and so forth, in addition to being a false accusation, unfortunately tends to unite and confirm the views of foreign radios and statements issued by the small counterrevolutionary groups of the right and left and the hypocrites. It can confuse honest workers and people who have heard the above accusations from certain sources, which are clear to all, in the past few months. This is against the country's interests. Especially since we have to retaliate and answer some questions raised: This in turn forces us to raise some issues with regard to the mentioned, and they will be abused by the revolution's enemies.

3. Keeping the last point in mind, we are not about to answer all the issues raised by the brothers. But, despite this, we have to answer and correct some of the issues raised, as follows:

A. One of the brothers' criticisms was that the minister of heavy industry did not understand correctly the "fundamental changes in industry" mentioned in the government's new economic package. It must be noted that the "fundamental economic changes" were placed in the economic package at the recommendation of this ministry and with the approval of the Economic Council. Does it not seem unlikely that, after hours of talks and discussions in the Economic Council, the minister of heavy industry would misinterpret the phrase in question? The least that could be expected is for the minister to understand the issue better than the brothers on the economic section.

B. All the general policies of this ministry have been within the framework of the Economic Council directives and have been brought to the attention of relevant esteemed officials both in writing and verbally. These policies have been mentioned in the proposed programs and have been discussed and approved at several sessions of the Economic Council and its special commission--in particular, the rapid closure of some subsidiary industries using up a lot of hard currency which in the long run would have had to be cut off.

Similar decisions have been reached and approved by the Economic Council dealing with other industrial areas such as the cosmetics industry and other subsidiary and unnecessary industries.

With regard to these points, is it not false to accuse this ministry of "limited thinking," "individual decisionmaking," and "self-centered" behavior?

If by mentioning such things, these brothers meant to refer to the voluntary resignations in some factories, it is obvious that such matters concern only the relevant authorities involved in closing some of these factories in order to correct the country's foundations--provided, of course, that this does not contradict the employment policies mentioned in the government's new policy. Obviously, when a factory is closed down, its work force has to be absorbed in other plants and units or else has to receive severance pay in a manner that is acceptable and beneficial to both sides. These issues need to be mentioned in order to point out that the executive decisions in question in no way contradict the government's employment schemes in the new economic package.

C. We sincerely and boldly declare that there has not been a single "layoff" or "compulsory separation" in the units under this ministry's jurisdiction. It is surprising how the dear brothers mention the people's patience with the butter shortage as the "voluntary removal of butter from their consumer habits" and yet talk about "layoffs" or "compulsory separation" when it comes to formal requests by sensible, adult workers who voluntarily resign. These voluntary resignations indicate the workers' realistic view of the production units' current situation and future production trends.

In any case, we state again that if there is one worker from any of the factories under the ministry's jurisdiction who has been forced to resign under pressure, he should apply to the ministry of heavy industry before his dues are paid to him and his factory's management will be prevented from carrying out the act.

D. For the information of the brothers in the JOHHURI economic section and others, we shall detail the actions taken by this ministry and its industrial units with regard to lower oil revenues:

From the beginning of the time when petroleum revenues started to decrease, at the start of 1984, this ministry created a mobilization headquarters of heavy industries to counter the consequences of the drop in oil revenues. From 21 February 1985, it started to consider the issue of employment in the factories under its control. There was much effort at that time to absorb the extra manpower in other units under the ministry's control, despite lower hard currency revenues and therefore lower production. There was also an effort to employ this manpower in other types of work in the same factories. There was also a serious followup to educate and train this work force, keeping in mind their work hours.

There has been much communication and correspondence with other executive organizations aimed at absorbing the manpower which could not be utilized in other heavy industry units. Unfortunately this has yet to produce any practical results. All possible steps have been taken to maintain the

present level of employment in heavy industries or else to have the surplus manpower absorbed in other plans and projects. The suggestions made by the brothers in the JOMHURI economic section are nothing new and have been implemented as far as possible. We are now ready to put into action any other practical suggestions that may come forward.

We welcome any suggestions that tell us how we can maintain the level of employment in a factory which is going to have, in the first 6 months of this year, one-fifteenth of the hard currency it had for the same period on 1983 and one-tenth of what it had in 1985... on the condition that the suggestions are practical and not just empty slogans.

What we have thought of for the moment--which has been approved by the government--is to close down some of the dependent priority to the production of those self-sufficient units that serve the war efforts and the country's other economic sectors.

Interestingly, there was a time when the country's hard currency earnings were \$20 billion a year and a budget of \$24 billion in hard currency was predicted for the government's 5-year plan. At that time the ministry of heavy industry mobilized to prevent the import of goods. It started to plan for increased production in the factories under its control and it prevented more hard currency from leaving the country by confirming and approving the local production of many essential items--in order also to keep the level of employment in heavy industries. At that time many people shouted: "Why don't you close down factories which are merely assembly plants and why do you waste the country's hard currency on these units?"

Now, with limited currency, there is no other way than to close down or limit the production of dependent units. At the same time we have to prevent the import of the goods they would have produced--which is fortunately more possible now because of the lower currency revenues compared with the years of plenty. In practical terms this changes consumer habits. Now that all this is happening, we have come face to face with such unkindness.

In conclusion, we thank the brothers at the economic section of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI once again. But we would like to keep one channel of complaint open for those who have tried by journalistic methods to equate the dear people who serve at the ministry of heavy industry with those who applauded the lower oil revenues because it brought good tidings of "an end to government control." Because they rejected both the ministry and the others with accusations of "being self-centered."

The final judgment on this and other issues mentioned is up to the dear readers.

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CSO: 4600/58

IRAN

AL-DUSTUR CARRIES MULLAH'S LETTER

JN150930 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Oct 86 p 20

[Letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, leader of the Iranian delegation to the third session of the Islamic Jurisprudence Conference that began in Amman on 11 October in reply to a news analysis published by AL-DUSTUR on 11 October--date not given; editor's comments omitted]

[Text] The editor in chief of the Jordanian paper AL-DUSTUR Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. I have read your paper's news analysis on the "Gulf War" and the Security Council resolution. Although I am preparing to attend the third session of the Islamic Jurisprudence Conference--and this requires me to read a great deal and I am therefore unable to devote time to political matters--I believe it is my duty to uphold the truth in addition to respecting guest rules. I hope you will read what I have written objectively. It is not important to me if you publish or do not publish what I have written, although naturally I prefer that you publish it. I will summarize my short letter in points:

1. You have said that the war is not directed against the Iraqi regime because Iranian artillery shells Al-Basrah and Iranian forces occupied Al-Faw, and the waging of war against a regime is a revival of Nazism.

I would like to ask: What was the world's stand on Nazi crimes? Did it submit to the calls of peace by the Nazis in their last days when they could not continue fighting? Did not the states of the world insist on punishing the Nazi aggressors whatever the cost? Was not Germany occupied and are not the effects of the occupation still there 40 years later? I do not think you will deny that the actions by the Iraqi forces in their sudden and all-out attack against our Muslim people and Islamic revolution, which has added great weight to the Muslim Arab flank in its war against the Zionist enemy, were different from Nazi actions when they occupied thousands of kilometers, destroyed hundreds of towns and villages, made millions homeless, and aimed to destroy the Islamic revolution, believing that Iran's military and administrative weakness at the time would allow the Iraqi forces to achieve their objectives.

You have said that Iran is not fighting the Iraqi regime when it occupies some Iraqi territory and shells some industrial installations on the outskirts of towns, but what is your view of the Iraqi Army's shelling of populated areas? We were patient for more than 3 years without the world which, as you have said, is seeking to end the fighting now, lifting a finger to end the situation.

What is your attitude when, after escaping to behind the border, the regime continued to attack Islamic territory, or by escaping sought to save itself from retribution? What would you have done if a thief had attacked your honor and then hid in his house to escape punishment? What would your attitude be if an enemy should commit aggression against you and then hide behind his border and wage a cold war against you, waiting to turn it into a hot war at the time he chooses?

Have we forgotten the experience of the Zionist enemy? Have we forgotten the bitter fact that if the Muslims and Arabs had stood fast from the first day all this energy would not have been wasted and there would not have been so much humiliation during the existence of the illegitimate state [Israel]? Or are you saying that the Iraqi regime is peaceful? Then what do you say about its first aggression? What do you say about its violation of international law by shelling populated areas? Dezful was bombarded by more than 100 9-meter Russian missiles that wipe out an entire locality. What do you say about the use of chemical weapons, the attacks on civilian prisoners, the pollution of the environment, and so on and so forth? What do you say about the violation of the Algiers agreement that was concluded between the Iraqi president and the dead shah? Can we forget the thousands of believers who were executed in Iraq, foremost among whom is Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr?

2. You have said that the UN Security Council is the place for international understanding. Do you really mean what you say? Is the Security Council really a place for international understanding, or is it where the wishes of the great powers who have the right of the damn veto are satisfied? Can the Security Council do anything that is not compatible with the interests of the arrogant powers?

Why did the Security Council remain silent for a long time on the Iraqi attack and not condemn it? We saw the Security Council act only after the clear Iranian victories at Khorramshahr. Have you forgotten the resolutions on the Palestinian question that have been rejected by all the Arabs because the damn Security Council done to stop Israeli attacks on Islamic territory or to stop the crimes of South Africa against the Black people?

3. Citing an Austrian paper you said that the highest proportion of executions to the size of population in the world is in Iran, and that that is because of the war. You then referred to the collapsing economic situation, citing as proof a memorandum sent by Bazargan to the officials. But can that be considered proof? Are you not aware that the enemies of the Islamic revolution are daily fabricating lies about us? Have you forgotten that despite the ferocity of the battle Iran did not borrow a single piaster from anyone, while aid is pouring into the Iraqi regime? Have you forgotten that the world agreed to commit suicide by reducing oil prices so that the Islamic republic would die? However, the result was contrary to expectations: Oil institutions connected with the West collapsed and Iran gradually turned to self-sufficiency.

4. You have said that Iran wants to wage a war against the Gulf states, forgetting the thousands of statements made by Iranian and Arab officials that Iran is a support for all its neighbors, and that we are seeking to keep the Persian Gulf region free of foreign intervention? There has been ample proof of this policy in the past years, despite the fact that some Gulf states have openly and directly supported the Iraqi regime in its war of aggression. However, we said that security and stability can be established in the region through a just peace, and that can be achieved only by ending the sedition in Iraq.

5. You have introduced the issue of kidnapping or what the West calls terrorism. Do you believe that France can be influenced by the detention of an individual or a group and change its foreign policy? That is an illusion and you know the extent of it--and excuse this expression for the pen has overreacted, and we as visitors must be polite. The real terrorists are the leaders of the states that pursue official and open terrorism and then raise a hue and cry against individual terrorism. Iran has declared through its leader Imam Khomeyni that it will not resort to deviant methods even when the objective is to regain its rights.

As for the exposed lie about Israel supplying Iran with arms, you should have saved yourselves the expense of the ink used to publish it. Such a lie does not hide the facts, and the fact is that Israel knows who its principal and true enemy is. Since its inception the Islamic revolution has been declaring that Israel should be eliminated and has proved its determination by forming the 1-million strong Jerusalem Army. That was a fact when Dayan said that the Islamic revolution has shaken the earth. It is a fact that Israel and the world knew whenever a ray of the Islamic revolution shone in southern Lebanon. Enough of such futile claims.

In conclusion, I would like to apologize for what the pen writes sometimes, not so as to deviate from the facts, but out of respect for the diplomacy of being a guest. I am not a diplomat but I am a scholar attending the third session of the Islamic Jurisprudence Conference to contribute to the achievement of its aims. May God grant you success in knowing the truth and working for it.

[Signed] Muhammad 'Ali Taskhiri, member of the Islamic Jurisprudence Conference and chairman of the Iranian delegation to the conference.

/12624
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IRAN

COUNTRY SAID TO SET EXAMPLE FOR 'DOWNTRODDEN NATIONS'

PM131311 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Sep 86 p 2

[Editorial: "World Diplomacy in a New Strategy"]

[Text] The issue of the Iran-Iraq war has again been raised at the 41st UN General Assembly Session this week. Ambassadors, foreign ministers, and representatives of various countries have given speeches in the General Assembly and commented on the imposed war.

They use phrases such as "It is useless to continue the war," or "The region's security will be endangered if the war is expanded," or "It would be mutually beneficial to end the war," or "There are too many casualties and deaths" and "The unity of Islam is in danger." They ask Iran to accept peace proposals and to accept mediation.

At all conferences and in reply to all peace missions the Islamic Republic of Iran has voiced its rights and insisted that these rights be accepted by Iraq and by well-meaning nations.

Among those who have voiced their views are some who have asked the Security Council to play its rightful role in connection with the Iran-Iraq war, but the truth is that the only rightful position so far has been that of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

From the start of the war Iran has repeatedly stated that, in order to destroy and weaken the roots of aggression and arrogance in the world, the aggressor has to be identified, arraigned, and punished. If the world shows no intention of doing this, Iran itself is determined to demand its rights from the aggressor and in order to accomplish this holy task it has placed its life on the line.

The representatives and ministers of various countries usually speak about the war within the framework of accepted diplomacy. This is governed by their compliance with the superpowers' will and shows the weakness of their peoples in demanding their rights. The aggressors try to make the masses accept that, in the face of the superpowers, the peoples have no choice but to accept the superpowers' policies or be defeated. The masses' efforts to win independence are said to be futile and not to be stressed.

The aggressors' ways have defined the principles and strategies of diplomacy practiced throughout the world. This has ruled economic, political, and cultural relations between [as published] the masses down the years. Even now, the bullies and seekers after superiority carry out overt aggression against the world's downtrodden peoples in order to control them, and they bury all thoughts of healthy relations in their own blind complexes.

At the end of World War II the United Nations was created with the idea and excuse of creating a decent balance in world relations. But from the beginning, by giving the right of veto to the major powers in the Security Council, the element of unfairness and pressure entered the organization, and this became a tool in the superpowers' hands to suppress the weaker nations.

Unfortunately the Nonaligned Movement, which was created with the goodwill of some of the leaders who wanted independence for the Third World nations, became impotent and useless because of basic, fundamental weaknesses in ideology and strategy. This was the fault of nations which compromise and are dependent on others.

Today the superpowers act in such a way, as if to say that only their diplomacy and policy must control the whole world. Other countries are either afraid of the superpowers' economic and military strength or else they think it would be useless to try and to win rights outside the practiced realms of diplomacy throughout the world. In only a few cases have a number of countries tried through resistance not to bow down to the superpowers in order to secure their rights from the aggressors in any way possible. Throughout history, the only reason why revolutions and liberation movements have gained the respect of the people is that they have not given in to superpowers' will and because they have not accepted the disgrace of compromise.

With the victory of the Islamic revolution, it seems that the mission of founding a new diplomacy and strategy which guarantees the interest of the nations of the world has been placed in the hands of the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that it can safeguard the independence and identity of downtrodden nations and remove any grounds that would allow the arrogant powers to exercise their control.

It is human nature to seek justice. Implementing justice in relations among the peoples of the world guarantees peace, comfort, growth, freedom, and national rights for all peoples. Achieving this revered goal requires widespread struggle and resistance throughout the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has now started a major and basic holy war in one of the most sensitive areas, which world arrogance has always tried, through its own brand of diplomacy, to place within the bounds of its interests. Iran has familiarized the international arena with a new language and a new logic. This diplomacy of "seeking justice, basic principles, and resistance until victory or martyrdom" will be the winning strategy.

It is still too early to witness the achievements of this new strategy, this new religious language or holy logic, but Iran is inviting the world to watch this test in the imposed war. Along this path, Iran will only think of its worldly mission, its promise, and its holy responsibility.

Removing prejudice, injustice, and the spirit of colonialism from relations among the nations of the world and replacing these with justice and equality among peoples may seem impossible, but the law of God and the great will of the downtrodden people carry the promise of progress and expansion from this truth to be established throughout the world, God willing.

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IRAN

BRIEFS

KHORASAN WHEAT SURPLUS--More than 200,000 tons of surplus wheat have been purchased in Khorasan Province. In addition to meeting the province's wheat needs during the current year, about 60,000 tons will be sent to other parts of the country as well. Announcing this, the Khorasan Province grains organization director added: Wheat cultivation in Khorasan this year increased considerably in comparison with previous years. All of Khorasan's grain elevators are full at present and wheat has also been sent to other provinces. Deliveries continue and between 1,500 to 2,000 tons of wheat arrive at the province's granaries daily. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Oct 86 NC] /12624

SOLDIERS CLASH WITH TRIBES--Kabul, 18 Oct, BAKHTAR: The situation around Zahedan is getting dangerous as a result of the anti-human policy of the authorities of Iran and trampling down traditional and religious rights of the Baluchi tribes. Reports reaching here say that recently the oppressive regime of Iran attacked the Baluchi tribes (a national minority) in Soran mountainous region using Air Force planes. As a result, fifteen inhabitants of that area were killed in addition to inflicting heavy material losses. After that attack, the armed Baluchi youths clashed with the Iranian soldiers. Eighteen soldiers were killed in the clash and a number of Baluchi youths were injured. A helicopter used by the Iranian soldiers was shot down by the Baluchi youths. Reports add that similar clashes have taken place in the southern parts of Zahedan also, in which three Iranian soldiers were killed. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 19 Oct 86 LD] /12624

NON-OIL EXPORTS--Tabriz, E. Azarbaijan Prov., 12 Oct, IRNA--Over 500 million dollars worth of non-oil goods were exported during the past Iranian year (ended March 20, 1986), said minister of industries, Gholam Reza Shafe'i here Sunday. The industries minister who is currently visiting East Azarbaijan Province further said that ten percent of the goods were exported by units affiliated to the ministry. Shafe'i said that letters of agreement have been issued for establishment of more than 19,000 industrial and productive units in the country since the victory of the Islamic Revolution (on Feb. 11, 1979) by the Industries Ministry. More than 10,500 of the units have become operational so far, he said. The industries minister furthermore said that production of cement increased by five percent during the current year in comparison with the past year. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 12 Oct 86 LD] /12624

PAKISTAN

POPULAR BASE OF PPP IN SIND LOSING GROUND

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 27 Sep 86 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] Following the emergence of differences between Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Benazir Bhutto, it was generally expected that because of the Bhutto family's emotional popularity in the rural areas of Sind, Benazir Bhutto would force Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi to capitulate and in the rural areas his supporters would also surrender. But these calculations of the People's Party do not appear to be working out. Benazir Bhutto did benefit from the uncertainty surrounding Ghulam Mustapha Jatoi's formation of a new party. But with the formation of the National People's Party, the People's Party has suffered many unexpected reverses in the rural areas. The reasons for this are debatable, but there is no denying that for the first time since 1970 an alternative to the People's Party has emerged in the rural areas, and if Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi concentrates on the rural areas he can shake the People's Party's decisive hold there. And then will begin the real power struggle. On the face of it, with the joining of Pir of Ranipur, the National People's Party has won the first round.

Pir of Ranipur is of key importance in Upper Sind politics. His influence extends from the districts of Khairpur, Larkana, Jacobabad and Dadu to Baluchistan. Benazir Bhutto exerted great personal effort at every level to keep Pir of Ranipur in the People's Party. Talks were held and contacts were established, but she could not prevent the person who was crucial to her party in Upper Sind from joining the National People's Party. The consequences of Pir of Ranipur joining the National People's Party will be felt across the spectrum of Sind politics. Pir of Ranipur was counted among the trustworthy comrades of the late Mr Bhutto. The group of supporters that the late Mr Bhutto formed in Sind during the regime of Ayub Khan also included Pir Abdul Qadir Shah Jilani. During the elections of 1964, Pir Abdul Qadir Shah Jilani was opposed by Pir Pagaro's brother, Pir Nadir Shah.

With the formation of the National People's Party, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi wants to move ahead in politics, and for this he considers having Pir of Ranipur in his party important. When Benazir learned on 17 September of the reception accorded to Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, it was a completely unexpected development. She thought that by keeping Pir of Ranipur engaged in talk, she could destroy the group at any time with the help of her political commandos. But Pir of

Ranipur made the final decision. Benazir Bhutto tried to talk to Pir of Ranipur in person, but he had only one reply: "The time for talk has passed." Having failed in all her efforts to establish contact with Pir of Ranipur, Benazir Bhutto called on Agha Ghulam Nabhi Pathan and Makhdoom Khaliquzzaman to hold talks with Pir of Ranipur. But Pir of Ranipur's stand was: "Benazir Bhutto is digging a political grave for herself and we are not prepared to join in this suicide."

Present at the reception accorded to Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi were People's Party officials and active members from various districts of Upper Sind. They joined the National People's Party. Eulogizing Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's services to the nation, Pir of Ranipur expressed confidence in his leadership. In his address at the reception, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that the party had not been formed for the sake of the offices. He said: "We believe in public service. We oppose provincialism and regionalism as not being in the national interest. He said propagandists of the 'B' team of martial law should realize where they themselves stand. Their wrong, undemocratic policies have harmed all the democratic forces in the country. The view of our comrades was that by taking part in February 1985 elections, we could have grasped power. But we boycotted the elections completely." He said: "Because the People's Party and the Junejo regime consider us their rivals, our party will gain strength and unity from Khyber to Kiamari." In a bitter criticism of Benazir Bhutto, he said that she had committed political blunders. When she was aware of her political situation, why did she allow a massacre, why did she let the poor people die? The fact is that by her conduct, Benazir Bhutto has bitterly disappointed the democratic forces. He said the law and order situation is deteriorating. The government has failed. A government that cannot protect the life and honor of its citizens has no right to rule. Mr Jatoi said that no one except General Ziaul Haq and Junejo have gained from Benazir's programs and movement. He said he would not allow his party to be identified with a particular clan.

On his way back from Ranipur to Nawabshah, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi received an enthusiastic welcome in various villages. He was taken in a big procession to the residence of former member of the National Assembly Noor Ahmed Shah, where he addressed a big rally. Later he took part in a meeting at the residence of Haji Ali Nawaz Unnar, a former member of the Sind Assembly and an influential personage. As a result of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's tour of the rural areas, the People's Party will have to revise its political strategy there in the light of the new political conditions. Undoubtedly, with this tour of Sind rural areas, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has fully demonstrated his political clout and shown his political influence. But he will have to tour the Sind rural areas constantly. He will have to establish direct contact with the masses, and with the help of a team of political workers he will have to seek a solution to the problems of the rural areas. As far as Benazir Bhutto is concerned, she can surely win votes in an election campaign by dwelling on the hanging of Mr Bhutto, but the party machinery cannot be strengthened on the basis of emotional slogans. She, too, will have to descend from the high ground of 70, Clifton [Bhutto family's house in Clifton, Karachi] and leave the ivory tower of foreign press comment. She will have

to go to the rural areas. So, her party could very well face a political debacle in the rural areas. The Sind traditions, including culture, truth, love and humility, have deep roots. Saying "Who is Jatoi?" and uttering slogans may well afford her personal gratification, but this proud attitude will keep her a prisoner of protocol and she will not be able to counter the opposition to her party. The people of the rural areas of Sind are tired of the politics of unending confrontation, hatred and violence. They favor clean, democratic politics. They definitely want to participate in political power, but a ceaseless politics of rioting is against their traditions and their social character. The People's Party will have to realistically assess the growing influence of the National People's Party in the rural areas of Sind. From 1970 on, the People's Party remained unchallenged in Sind. It had no rival. But now things are different. If in order to stem the advance of its rival, the People's Party resorts to violence and force, it will surely fail in the attempt. The organizational structure of the People's Party in Sind is too weak to confront both the government machinery and the other political forces. If Benazir Bhutto adopts the ostrich mentality, chooses to ignore reality, she will lose the political game. And it will be a result of her own political mistakes and her arrogance.

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PAKISTAN

REASONS FOR DEFECTIONS FROM PEOPLE'S PARTY EXAMINED

Karachi JANG (Supplement) in Urdu 10 Oct 86 p 6

[Article by Yusuf Ali Khan]

[Excerpts] Before Benazir Bhutto came to Pakistan, the People's Party was strong; it had stability. But then, in order to purify the party, she reorganized it. [In the process a dissident] political party, the Sindhi Baloch Pashtoon Front was born. Its views were completely different from those of the People's Party. Punjab [PPP] leader Ghulam Mustafa Khar tried to meet Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto to reach an understanding as did Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. But Begum Nurat Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto did not like meeting Mr Khar, so he left the People's Party. Hanif Ramey had already left the People's Party to form his own Musawat Party. Thus, the defection of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mumtaz Bhutto and Abdul Hafiz Pirzada from Sind and of Ghulam Mustafa Khar and Hanif Ramey etc., from Punjab made a big dent in the party.

Because Benazir Bhutto was getting a tumultuous welcome in Punjab and Sind and people in the hundreds of thousands were thronging to her processions, she was not concerned over the disaffection and defection of party veterans. In fact, she herself was eager to get rid of veteran leaders. However, the defection of other party members such as Kamal Azfar, Usman Kennedy, Malik Lal Khan, Nafis Siddiqi, Pir Abdul Qadir Jilani, Abdullah Baloch, Sayyed Zia Abbas, Pir Sayyed Aftab Shah Jilani, Chaus Bakhsh Raisani, Nasirullah Khattak, etc., from the People's Party to the National People's Party has hit the People's Party very hard. Apart from these, a large number of People's Party workers and personalities all over Pakistan are unhappy because of the lack of appreciation from Benazir Bhutto. Prominent among them is Maulana Ehtramul Haq Thanvi. As president of the People's Party in Sind and a very active leader, it was he who, in the days of severe oppression under martial law, tried to keep the People's Party alive and suffered imprisonment for this. But he, too, is a victim of neglect. Despite offers of high position from other parties, he has not yet left the People's Party. Also, there are dozens of women in the People's Party who have gone to jail several times. They complain not only of lack of appreciation but also that they are not allowed to meet Benazir Bhutto. These women are also ready to leave the People's Party. If Karachi's best workers and those who make sacrifices leave, what will remain of the party? It is worth pondering how long it will take to train new workers.

Reasons for Defection from the People's Party

There are several reasons for the defection of People's Party officials and workers. Prominent among these are the following: (1) the ignoring of workers who have made sacrifices and the proffering of office to new workers; (2) the lack of opportunity to meet Benazir; (3) insults and disrespect during meetings; (4) the incurring of government wrath while working for the party; (5) confrontation with the government, arrest and imprisonment; (6) during arrest and imprisonment, the lack of party support in following up on the issue and gaining release; (7) during imprisonment, the failure of one's business, difficulties in meeting household expenses and disruption of children's education and training; (8) the dim prospects of the People's Party coming to power; and (9) disappointment over the securing of jobs, plots [i.e., building lots] and permits, etc.

The party of Mumtaz Ali Bhutto and Hafiz Pirzada, the Sindhi Baloch Pashtoon Front, and Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's National People's Party are vying with each other to entice People's Party workers to join their parties. Mumtaz Ali is an influential person in Sind. He has a great deal of influence over land owners, waderas and the youthful lovers of Sindi nationalism. He also enjoys the advantage of being a member of the Bhutto family. The group that was with Mumtaz Bhutto and Hafiz Pirzada during the reign of the People's Party and with whom they had personal relations left the People's Party and joined the Front. They did this only on account of personal relationships and even when they did not agree with the policies of the Front. And they are still in the Front. The People's Party workers who joined the Front received offices of their choice in their own areas. They have been accorded honor, do not have to suffer imprisonment, and have been left in peace to run their businesses. Workers in the People's Party are under pressure from three quarters--the People's Party, the National People's Party, and the Front--and this constitutes a severe mental strain.

With the formation of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's National People's Party [NPP], officials and workers of the People's Party view the NPP as a more attractive and peaceful place. Those who were unhappy with their own parties have joined the NPP. In it they have received and will continue to hold offices they were familiar with. They no longer have to deal with the courtly protocol they had to go through in order to meet Benazir Bhutto. They no longer suffer the feeling of inferiority and lack of appreciation. They have eliminated the ever impending danger of confrontation with the government, arrest, imprisonment and sacrifice. There is no confrontation in Mr Jatoi's party, so there is no danger of arrest, imprisonment or getting shot. The People's Party wanted rule through confrontation, whereas the National People's Party wants to come to power through conciliatory means. The prospects of the People's Party coming to power are getting dimmer, whereas the National People's Party is moving closer to power. People's Party workers are looked on as enemies to the government; the attitude of civil officials and police officers toward them has been and remains unsympathetic. On the other hand, even though Mr Jatoi's party is not considered friendly to the government, it is at least not looked on as an enemy to the government, either. On the expectation that it

might come to power, the attitude of deputy commissioners and police officers toward it is sympathetic. Workers in the NPP are not considered violent, but rather peaceful; from them one expects polite politics. When Mr Jatoi was chief minister of Sind, he gave his party workers plots of land and truck and car permits, and he rewarded sons of waderas with lucrative posts. Those who join the party now similarly expect that they will soon be rewarded. These are the reasons why officials and workers of other political parties are irresistibly drawn to the National People's Party. People's Party members are joining it in large numbers. And people from the Tehrik-I-Istiqlal, the Muslim League, the PDP, the Musawat Party and Maulana Kausar Niazi's Progressive Party are also joining it. Some people are waiting in line to join, while others are getting ready to leave. This does not concern only lower level officials and workers; according to newspaper reports, even stalwarts of the People's Party such as General Tikka Khan and Farooq Leghari are shaky. Given adequate assurances, even they might join the exodus.

The departure of people who have made sacrifices and of trained, experienced and influential officials from the People's Party all over Pakistan and their membership in Mr Jatoi's party has shaken the People's Party to its foundations. This is a matter of concern to Benazir Bhutto; it is also causing organizational problems and will further aggravate differences. New workers who take the place of experienced workers will not be able to perform their role effectively. Meanwhile, the difficulties of Benazir's party are increasing. The disintegration of the People's Party is of political advantage not only to the government, but also to the rival political parties.

Following the defection of well-known people from the People's Party, its workers now expect Mr Jatoi rather than Benazir Bhutto to come to power. So Benazir Bhutto would be well advised to follow her father's example and take steps to establish direct contact with her workers and encourage them. This will alleviate the feeling of neglect among the workers.

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PAKISTAN

GOVERNMENT'S SILENCE ON QADIANIS MISDEEDS CRITICIZED

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 17 Oct 86 pp 17-19

[Article by Mohammad Aslam Saif: "Why is the Government Silent About Qadianis Misdeeds?"]

[Excerpts] If our government has not totally given up intelligence, sagacity, and understanding, then it should not only keep a close eye on Qadianis but also investigate them thoroughly. We are certain that whatever is being done by the dacoits in Sindh is the work of Mirzaies who are enemies of Islam and Pakistan. These Mirzaies are also behind all the incidents involving murder, robbery, arson, and bombing in Punjab and Sarhand. Some notorious Qadianis in Sahewal murdered three Muslims to demonstrate their love for violence. Our political common sense and religious faith tells us that some Mirzaies conspired to blast oil trains every hour at Okara railway station. Thousands of gallons of oil was destroyed in this incident. The government should not hesitate to prove that Qadianis are enemies of Islam and Pakistan. They have become angry since they were declared a non-Muslim minority. Destruction has become their favorite 'hobby' and devastation of Pakistan using arson and vandalism has become their goal, Qadianis are apparently involved in Hathora group also. They still are trying to involve India and the USSR in order to start a civil war in Pakistan. The Punjab government investigated Qadiani officers in its bureaucracy recently. The findings of this investigation are shocking to Muslims. The government should survey Qadiani officers all over the country and appoint them in places where they cannot do much harm. If necessary, they should be relieved of their duties and replaced with faithful Muslims. No Qadiani should be made an officer in educational departments. Qadianis should be fired from sensitive departments. All Qadianis should be thrown out of the three military divisions of the country. They should also be eradicated from government and public communication agencies as televisions, radios, and newspapers. If all this is not done they will 'sink the ship of our country.'

The government of Mr Junejo must be aware that Mirzaies pulled a dirty trick by calling its center in London Islamabad. Now they have bought 2,000 acres of land in Canada to build another center. The government should ask Mirza Tahir Ahmad to return to Pakistan immediately or force him to relinquish Pakistani citizenship and confiscate his property here. Mirza Tahir should be thoroughly investigated.

Magazines and newspapers published by Mirzaies should be banned from using the pious name of Islam in their pages and all Mirzai literature should be confiscated immediately. The 50 bookcases filled with books authored by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani in support of the British should be thrown into a river.

Mirza Tahir Ahmad should be told not to make political announcements forecasting destruction.

The Mirzaies have opened a center in Tel Aviv for spreading Islam [in Israel]. About 300 Mirzaies have joined the Israeli army. A Tel Aviv radio has reserved 45 minutes per week for Qadiani programs. If all this is true then why is our government silent? Pakistan has never recognized Israel and has not established any diplomatic relations with it. Our religious and political groups should honor this to prove their loyalty to this country. Parliament and Senate members should discuss this issue and propose a policy to stop the activities of Qadianis. The duty of the members of Punjab assemblies is twofold since both centers of Qadianis activites--Ahmadiya building on Brand Road Lahore and the one in Raboh--are situated in Punjab.

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PAKISTAN

STRONG ACTION AGAINST SECESSIONISTS URGED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 27 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Crush These Snakes"]

[Text] Pakistan is the only country in the world in which "the great leaders" openly talk about dividing, destroying, and enslaving the country with the help of foreign powers. These traitors are allowed to live in luxury in this very country and are given permission to spread their malicious propaganda against the country. It indeed is our country's misfortune that such snakes and scorpions are allowed to wiggle around and bite and sting and spread the poison all over the country. What is worse, the leaders who have the power to crush the venomous hoods of these cobras do not do anything. Perhaps, they are afraid that their poison might destroy their power. The traitors are taking full advantage of this leniency. Some declare schemes to divide the country in the name of a confederation while others proudly announce their allegiance to the enemies of our nation and religion and hope to invite them to Pakistan to obliterate it.

The only reason for the anger these people are harboring is that they did not get their share in power. People like G.M. Sayyed, Ghaffar Khan, Wali Khan, Mumtaz Bhutto, and Abdulhafiz Pirzada all consider Pakistan their inherited property and Pakistani people their slaves. When they did not get into the government and attain power and found that Pakistanis have stopped worshipping them blindly, they decided that they "would not let anyone eat since they were not allowed to eat." In the guise of opposing the government they have become traitors. Patriotic leaders have indicated that Sindh, Baluch, Pakhtoon "fronts" are similar to Sheikh Mujeeb's Six-Point proposal and demand secession. The label of confederation is also being used to destroy Pakistan. Pakistan government had given full freedom to Sheikh Mujeeb and East Pakistan. The whole country suffered from this permissiveness. The present government has not tried to curb the activities of these traitors, either. Slogans like "Breakup Pakistan" "Pakistan is Unnecessary" "May Sindh Live Long" and "May Pakistan Die" are being raised openly. Whenever Ghaffar Khan, Mumtaz Bhutto, Hafiz Pirzada, G.M. Sayyed, and Wali Khan have a meeting, their followers openly express their hatred toward Pakistan. Patriotic citizens wonder if these hateful traitors are going to run the country. G.M. Sayyed was very active in the movement to establish Pakistan. However, when he did not get

his share in the government, he became Pakistan's number one enemy. It shows that his only goal was to get power. Pirzada and Mumtaz Bhutto were the mouthpieces of the Pakistan People's Party. Hafiz Pirzada is considered one of the authors of the 1973 constitution. He supervised inter-provincial affairs during the Bhutto regime. Mumtaz Bhutto was the chief minister of Sindh. The prime minister [Zulfikar Ali Bhutto] himself was from Sindh. They had all the power and did not do anything to provide equal treatment of all provinces. They did not even wait for the ink of the constitution they had written to dry when they eliminated the provincial governments in Sarhad and Baluchistan. These very people now are raising slogans demanding equal rights for provinces and a confederation. A confederation is established by independent states and countries and not among provinces that are part of a country. Establishing a confederation would mean four countries and not one country with four provinces. Can these four tiny countries survive when dragons are surrounding them from all sides? The traitors are doing their thing. We want to ask our government what is it doing to curb these efforts? Does it agree with this conspiracy to divide the country into several parts and sell it?

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PAKISTAN

ABUNDANCE OF WEAPONS CREATING DISORDER IN PUNJAB

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 27 Sep 86 p 12

[Commentary by Tariq Ismail]

[Excerpts] Punjab has been converted into a vast arms depot. The over-abundance of arms licenses due to the kindness of members of elected bodies and the generosity of senior officials has played havoc with the life of common citizens, and they are feeling insecure. Furthermore, illegal arms are available in countless numbers. In the cars of influential people in the rural areas, where a few years ago 7 mm rifles and double-barreled handguns were found, Kalashnikov rifles are now seen. In the rural areas, there now appears to be rule by Kalashnikovs. The police and administrative officials are helpless; the hands of the law are weak and infirm against influential persons. Among the big landowners, there is a race to acquire advanced weaponry; they are spending their resources and energy in pursuit of advanced arms. Hired assassins and antisocial elements, too, are equipped with advanced arms. Those influential people who are always trying to expand their authority in their areas have made the acquisition of advanced arms their main aim in life. This is meant to increase their prestige. Such availability of arms has created disorder in the villages, and as a result the threat of conflict between various groups is ever present. In the villages the youth constantly try to acquire drugs and sophisticated arms, and life for law-abiding people is very difficult, if not impossible. Due to the presence of firearms, there has been a proliferation of gangs whose members function as hired assassins and also commit other violent crimes in the rural areas. As a result of their antisocial activities, there has been a rise in incidents of theft, dacoity and robbery. Unfortunately, the control of crime is still considered the responsibility of the police. The elected representatives have not yet recognized their responsibility for putting down crime in the rural areas. They have refrained from discharging their duty to stop the activities of antisocial elements.

Unfortunately, there are some members of elected bodies in whose cars people known to carry Kalashnikovs travel as guards. Such members are becoming a subject of controversy. During the election of 1985, the prevailing sentiment in Punjab was that as a rule only people of good repute should be elected to assemblies. Still there are members of elected bodies who have not played

their proper role in fighting antisocial elements. Some members manage to get police officers posted to their areas with whose help they may be able to maintain dominance over their rivals. The politics of police officials has given rise to an atmosphere of anarchy. The recommendation of the wrong kind of person has become a daily affair. Because of the protection and patronage of elected members, some police officers have become so powerful that their own senior officers are powerless to transfer them. Perhaps their patrons are not aware of the gravity of the situation; to maintain their dominance they get involved in police affairs, but their own actions will serve to frustrate their dreams. It is very easy to plaster one's car with Kalashnikov rifles and sophisticated arms, but the feeling of hatred and anguish that this will inspire among common citizens will darken the future of these elected representatives of the people.

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